

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

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DENVER, COLORADO

Number 10



MARCH 1936

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE
AMERICAN NATIONAL LIVE STOCK
ASSOCIATION

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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You get the benefit of this most advanced and economical type of Blackleg control when you insist on the FRANKLIN brand.

Authorized Dealers throughout the range regions.

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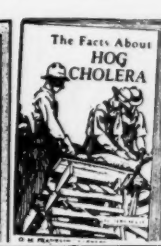
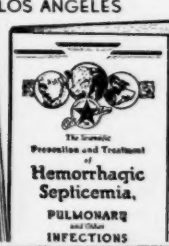
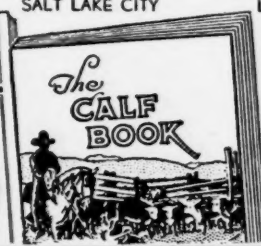
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O. M. FRANKLIN BLACKLEG SERUM CO.

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EL PASO SALT LAKE CITY LOS ANGELES

FREE
FOR THE ASKING



IT'S THE HOUSEWIFE

who controls the price of livestock



● Many producers, we feel sure, have never stopped to realize that it is really the housewife who controls the price of hogs, sheep, and cattle. This is true because it is the housewife who controls the price of pork, lamb, and beef.

If she thinks prices are too high for her pocket book, she either buys cheaper cuts of meat or turns to meat substitutes. When this occurs, the price of meat must come down to the level where she will buy readily, for meat is highly perishable—and must be sold at about the rate at which it is produced.

A drop in the price of meat forces a drop in the price of livestock. Armour and Company does not like extreme price fluctuations, but fluctuations are beyond its control. No one but the woman with her market basket and her meat budget can set the price of livestock.

A H Cabell
President

ARMOUR AND COMPANY

THE AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

Volume XVII

DENVER, COLORADO, MARCH, 1936

Number 10

The Old Cattleman's Scrap Book

BY WILL C. BARNES

Phoenix, Arizona

THE OLD CATTLEMAN WAS SITTING BEFORE the fireplace enjoying its grateful warmth. Outside the wind howled about the ranch-house. Bits of frozen snow pelted against the windowpanes. He was wondering how the old cows were making it out on the ranges.

They were a tough bunch, those old-time range cows. With them it was either "feast or famine." In good seasons, when a kind Providence sent the early summer rains and the gramagrass was waving all over the prairies, they waxed fat and sleek. Then again, the droughts came and the ranges were yellow and bare; the cows had no milk for their wobbly legged offspring that came into the world regardless of weather, grass, or "what have you?"

The little fellows starved to death by the thousands. Their mothers, gaunt and hollow-flanked, staggered back and forth from range to water-holes, where after three or four waterless days they drank greedily. Many of them sank to death in the muddy holes like flies on sticky fly-paper.

The bog-riders who patrolled the water-holes and streams each spring pulled hundreds of them out from their muddy resting places. Then, "tailed up" by the rider, they wandered back onto the range, chilled and weak, to lie down under some cedar bush and never again see the light of day nor the spring flowers of another season. "Seventy-five per cent of bogged cows drug out of the mud-holes don't live twenty-four hours and might just as well be crossed

off the ranch tally-book," was the opinion of most rangemen.

The Old Man crossed the room, reached up to a shelf and took from it his old Scrap Book in which for years he had pasted pictures, clippings, old brand advertisements, letterheads, and such souvenirs of his range life.



IN UP TO THE NECK

A Bog-Pulling Performance

Here was a picture of himself as a bog-rider pulling old "Nellie" out of the water-hole. He chuckled as he recalled a bog-pulling experience of his early years in which his young wife played quite a part. Driving to town from the ranch one spring day in a light two-horse buggy, they found one of his cows hopelessly bogged in a water-hole. Always he carried with him, whether driving or on horseback, a forty-

foot rope for emergencies. "A cow-person without his rope is jist about as helpless on the range as a hungry man tryin' to eat soup without a spoon," was the man's judgment.

Cows were then not worth more than five dollars a head at the most, but he could not see them die of slow starvation without doing all he could to save them. Leaving the wife with the team, he took the rope, and from the edge of the water-hole studied the situation. The cow was about ten feet from the bank, only her head showing above the water. As he came up, a couple of desert ravens flapped hurriedly off into the distance, cawing loudly. "Waitin' for a feed of fresh met, be ye," was his comment. "Wonder you hadn't dug her eyes out already, you black hellions!"

He looked at the cow. "You derved old fool," he said, as he made a loop in his rope, "why didn't you at least keep your hind feet on solid ground so a feller could git at you? It's dollars to doughnuts you don't git up even if we pull you clear out onto the solid bank." He knew cows and their ways, did the old fellow.

To catch a bogged animal round the neck meant choking her to death when the hard pull came on the rope. Making a good, big loop, he gave it a couple of swings about his head, then launched it at the cow so as to drop round her horns. His aim was good; the rope settled over both horns. With a quick jerk he drew it tight. Meanwhile the cow, cold and numb from her long immersion, hardly noticed what was going on about her. Occasionally she turned an inquisitive eye toward the man, as if to see what he was about.

With the rope fast to the cow's horns, his wife drove the buggy up to the edge of the water, backing up so the hind wheels were almost in it. The man fastened the rope to the rear axle, making a slip-knot in case it became necessary to get free from the animal in a hurry. The team was strong and steady. The wife knew well what her part in the rescue was. She started the team slowly. The rope tightened until it was as taut as a bar of steel. The cow's neck began to stretch and lengthen out.

An Ungrateful Cow

An experienced bog-rider, the husband planned things so the pull would not be a straight one, but would turn the old cow over backwards and thus pry her feet and legs free of the sticky mud. She turned over as he planned and slid gradually out of the soft ooze toward the bank. As she came up onto it, the man made a dive for the prostrate animal, grabbed the muddy tail in his hands, pulled it through between her hind legs, and braced both knees against her backbone to hold her down until

he could slip the wet rope from her horns. This meant quick work on his part; for an old cow, released from such a slimy resting place, generally makes getting onto her feet the first business in life. Nor has she any proper sense of obligation to the kindly person who is doing his very best to preserve her life. Not she!

Yelling to the wife to keep the team steadily pulling so the rope would not slack an inch, he held on for dear life to the tail while working his right hand forward toward the cow's horns in order to cast off the encircling loop. The animal struggled hard; the man, with the brush of the tail wrapped round his left hand, his knees well braced against her backbone, managed to curb her strong desire to rise in the world. She gave up struggling for a moment; he shouted to his wife to back the buggy so as to give him enough slack to loosen the rope around the horns. Just as the fingers of his right hand curled round the rope, the cow gave a mighty surge. The oddest thing about pulling an old cow from the bog is the fact that, poor and weak though she be, the moment she is on solid ground she seems to develop unbelievable strength and fury, together with a seeming hatred of all humans, more especially the one trying so hard to release her from the muddy hole into which she had deliberately walked.

A Lively Few Minutes

The Old Man laughed to himself as he recalled the lively minutes that ensued. Holding the "switch" of her tail in his left hand, he worked himself as far forward as he possibly could so as to reach the rope around her horns. Friend wife, alive to the situation, backed the team far enough so there was plenty of slack for this rather delicate operation. Whip in hand, she waited for the instant when her husband should yell that the rope was clear of the horns. Then she would drive the team far enough away to be put out of danger from attack by the released animal.

It was a delicate situation for the entire family. As the man's right hand slipped forward along the rope, the end of the long, muddy tail in his left hand, she made a mighty struggle to rise, which caused an equally mighty strain on the tail. The hairy end of this affair thereupon broke short off. His "tail hold" gone, the man was helpless. The cow struggled to her feet; the wife sensing the need for prompt action gave the two horses a slash with the buggy-whip that sent them off on a keen run. The cow whirled to attack the man behind her. The rope, still fastened, not only to the cow, but also to the rear axle of the buggy, began to pull hard on her head. She promptly declared war on the vehicle, and as she chased after it, snorting like a buffalo

bull, her eyes flashing fire and fury, and mud flying from her snorting nostrils, she was a picture of bad luck.

"Make a circle, old girl!" shouted the cattleman to his wife. "Keep 'em going; don't let the rope slack!" And well she did her part. The buggy swayed and rocked over the rough ground. She circled the team with steady rein back toward the lone man watching the proceedings with interest. The cow gained enough rope to make some slack in it. As the vehicle swept past the husband, she caught sight of him and decided to turn her attention his way. To do so she stepped one front foot across the rope, which, again taut, tripped and threw her heavily almost in front of the man.

The Wife to the Rescue

But the strain on the rope was too great; it broke off short at the axle. Before the animal could get back onto her feet and renew her attack on anything moving, the woman skilfully guided the team past the man, who made a wild dive for the buggy as it swept by him, landing almost on the lady's feet. The cow, somewhat bewildered by this turn in events, shook her head in defiance of anything and everything alive or dead, animate or inanimate, male or female, and loped off onto the open range, the rope dragging behind her. "Let the old Jezebel go," was the man's comment. "We've sure had enough excitement for one day." He scraped as much mud as possible from his clothes, which were well plastered with it, washed his hands in the tank, and the two resumed their journey to town.

That afternoon a lone cowboy riding along a dusty trail toward camp noticed the "drag" of a rope ahead of him. It told the puncher that a cow dragging a rope had passed that way not so long before. His curiosity aroused, he concluded to investigate. Half an hour's ride on the "drag sign" brought him into a little bunch of scrub cedars. Here the cow, tired and hungry, had stopped to graze a bit. As she did so, the rope twisted itself round a cedar bush, and she was finally as securely "staked out" as if tied by an expert. Her muddy sides, the broken rope, and the shortened tail told the cowboy, well versed in sign reading, just exactly what had happened.

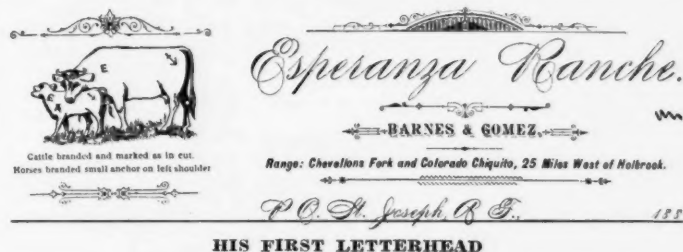
"Some cow-person sure done got his hook hung on this here old Nellié," was his comment.

It was no trouble to catch her and take the rope from her horns. The next day, when the family returned from town, the boys at the ranch heard the whole story. "It was sure some lively proceeding, especially for the madam," was the man's statement. She agreed with him whole-heartedly.

The Old Fellow, as he visualized the scene, chuckled over it all.

Advent of a Letterhead

Once more he turned to the pages of the Scrap Book. Here was one of his first letterheads put away for future reference. He was young, everything looked rosy and gay for the cow business in the early 80's. How proud he was of that printed affair, the first of its kind in his vicinity. Cowmen of those days did not write many letters, and when they did



HIS FIRST LETTERHEAD

they used almost anything in the way of paper that they could dig up around the ranch.

The man had a brother in Los Angeles, a printer by trade, to whom he had written and ordered some letterheads and envelopes to match. The brother rose to the occasion. A handsome cut of a cow and calf ornamented the sheet. Those letterheads of the "Esperanza Ranch, Barnes and Gomez, owners," created more excitement in northern Arizona than an Apache raid would have done. The letter "E" on each animal's neck and the "anchor" on each hip, with a small hole in the right ear, became famous almost overnight. The outfit received an immense amount of free advertising all over the territory of Arizona and adjacent regions. Poor old Gomez! Of Spanish-German parentage, born in Philadelphia, educated in Germany, a graduate of Heidelberg, after some years of the cow business in Arizona he drifted into old Mexico and, becoming involved in the Caranza trouble, faced a firing squad one morning at sunrise and lies in an unknown grave in that country.

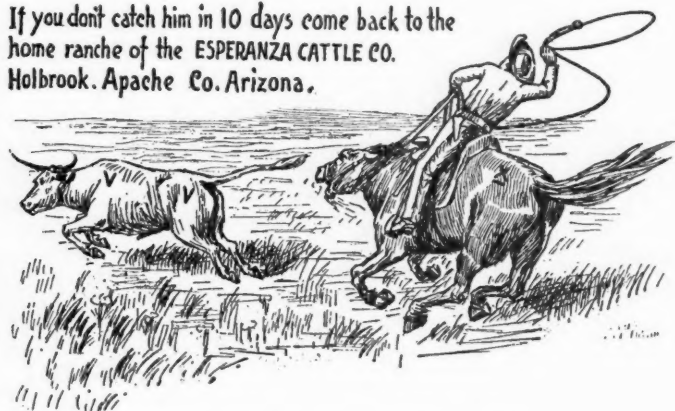
The Los Angeles brother also furnished with the letterheads an envelope with the same cuts on its upper left-hand corner. One day there came to the ranch a well-known eastern artist who craved to see some real, honest-to-goodness cowboy life. He had a yearning for wild and woolly experiences, together with plenty of local color. He remained for six months with the Esperanza chuck wagon, meanwhile accumulating plenty of experiences, color, and thrills. On returning to civilization, his pictures depicting scenes on the open cattle ranges in Arizona made him famous.

Meanwhile the man had changed his brand, both for horses and cattle. One evening at the ranch the artist was admiring the early letterhead and envelopes. "Why not have the envelope show a little life, a little western color and dash?" asked the painter-man.

"Well, why not?" replied the man.

The boys gathered round while the knight of the brush and palette sketched out his ideas on a bit of paper. That it had dash and western color was the instant decision of every one in the room. The man's new brand was a huge "V" on each hip and shoulder for cattle, and an "X bar" on the left hip for horses. The imprint on the envelope with the new design was a bit of the Old Man's own work.

If you don't catch him in 10 days come back to the home rancho of the ESPERANZA CATTLE CO. Holbrook, Apache Co. Arizona.



THE ARTFUL ENVELOPE DESIGN

Some of the cowboys who rather doubted the ability of the boss as a roper, said "it was a safe bet the Old Man couldn't catch anything but a bad cold inside of ten days at the least." They were amusing little cusses, those early "waddies."

If the Old Cowman craved publicity, this envelope surely brought it in huge quantities. Especially did the effete East enjoy them. Every mail that came brought letters inclosing stamped, self-addressed envelopes from every part of the country from Maine to Alaska, begging him for one of his envelopes showing the perfection of wild-western advertising methods in Arizona. Almost overnight the "Four V" brand for cows and "X bar" for horses became nationally famous.

Rounding Up Horse Thieves

Another interesting page in the old Scrap Book held a printed post-card announcing to the public the stealing of a lot of the Old Man's cow ponies. After a full description of the horses' brands, marks, and colors, together with his ideas as to the identity of the thieves, the card closed with this paragraph:

I will pay \$50 for the arrest and detention of any or all of these men, or \$100 for a good look at their corpses. Will also pay liberally for any confidential information as to the whereabouts of the thieves or the present location of the horses.

Address, Esperanza Cattle Co.
Holbrook, Arizona

July 30, 1889

Printed on regular post-cards, over two hundred were mailed to officials and to points and post-offices where it was felt they might help catch the thieves.

They did; for inside of two weeks he had the horses back and one of the thieves had been killed by a Utah sheriff who gave the command, "hands up," and fired at the same time. At that, the man was being arrested on another and minor charge.

The Old Cowman grinned. "Them were indeed the happy days."

WORLD MEAT CONSUMPTION

THAT RESTRICTION, RATHER THAN CO-OPERATION, has marked the activities of the government in its relation to the live-stock and meat industry, was the opinion expressed by R. H. Cabell, president of Armour and Company, in a talk before the convention of the American National Live Stock Association, held in Phoenix, Arizona, last January. "These have varied in extent from the restriction of cattle and sheep production through grazing regulations of the Forest Service or of the new administration of the Taylor Grazing Act, and the restriction of hog production through the Agricultural Adjustment Act, through various stages which seem to terminate in the handicapping of efficient distribution by prohibitions of anti-trust laws. . . .

"One cannot help contrasting the viewpoint of this government with that of the United Kingdom," the speaker continued. "In this country the government seems to act on the principle that industrial management is wrong in its methods, hence it requires restriction and hampering. . . . Any industry which is shackled and repressed by its government cannot make earnings that are fair to the stockholders or sufficient to pay the taxes which it is called upon to contribute to the government, nor can it compete satisfactorily in international trade with those industries of other lands which are fostered and encouraged by their own governments. . . .

"It would have been better," the speaker said, "if part of the money spent in the last few years to reduce agricultural production and live-stock supplies had been spent instead on tests to find new, better, and cheaper means of production, better kinds of live stock, and new and better methods of treating and marketing meat."

The cattlemen were congratulated on their courage in avoiding the processing taxes and government control. Such panaceas, the speaker believed, have done more to retard recovery than any other single factor. "If a person is promised something for nothing, the incentive to work for it is removed, and the methods employed to equalize agricultural prices with those of industry completely destroyed the incentive for the individual farmer to attack the problem."

Consumer Meat Habits

Mr. Cabell warned that cattlemen must never overlook the fact that residents of the industrial centers provide the mar-



R. H. CABELL

ket for their product, and that, even though the American's taste is simpler than that of the European, his whims and fancies must be indulged.

Here the speaker presented a table giving per capita consumption in various countries as follows (for the year 1932, except the Australian and Belgian figures, which are for 1931):

Exporting Countries	Beef and Veal	Mutton and Lamb	Pork and Lard	Total
United States.....	54.8	7.0	88.6	150.4
Argentina	213.6	23.9	35.7	273.2
Australia	92.1	85.7	15.4	193.2
New Zealand	149.0	115.8	24.7	289.5
Canada	56.0	7.0	91.8	154.8
Importing Countries				
United Kingdom.....	59.0	31.0	46.7	136.7
France	49.9	6.6	38.7	95.2
Germany	38.3	1.4	71.8	111.5
Czechoslovakia	28.7	7.5	36.2	72.4
Belgium	39.0	1.3	48.8	89.1
Netherlands	34.9	1.5	35.4	71.8

In reviewing the meat habits of Europe, Mr. Cabell explained that the French are not large meat eaters, their first requirement being tenderness, and their tastes running to sauces and flavorings to a high degree. French cattle are stabled in barns or small lots, and the requirement for tenderness thereby met; they are fattened on roots and pumpkins and concentrates. In Belgium and Holland the demand is for heavy beef. In the Scandinavian countries most of the beef comes from old cows, and the pork from old sows; the Swedes, Norwegians, and Danes prefer to export their best products. The Germans are large consumers of meat, although, since the war, consumption in Germany has been somewhat restricted, due to government regulations. The Englishman receives "the best beef in the world at the cheapest price; hence his consumption of other foods is rather light."

Half the British beef supply is imported, it was stated, although the British cattlemen are recognized as among the best breeders of cattle in the world, and the most popular breeds here and in South America originated in the British Isles. The cattlemen there have become breeders rather than feeders, and retail prices on home-produced beef have been pushed to such high levels that comparatively few consumers can afford to use it. The speaker pointed to a lesson in this—that "we must keep the price of high-quality beef within reach of the great mass of consumers." Consumers in Britain have come to prefer high-quality Argentine chilled beef to inferior home-killed beef, and of the various government plans to encourage the home producer few have been effective.

In explaining what has been done to improve the quality of Argentine beef, Mr. Cabell stated that during the past forty years breeders in that country have bought more high-quality breeding beef cattle than any other country. "Their soil is so rich that a cow and a calf may be kept the year around on slightly more than an acre of land, and their market animals have become so uniform that it is customary to buy by the head, rather than by the hundredweight."

In this country cattlemen have been facing a declining beef consumption for years, and little has been done about it; if the product is to return to its former place in the diet, the packer said, its quality must be improved so that people desire it more than any other foodstuff. "We must become efficient manufacturers and merchandisers, to the extent that people will eat 100 to 120 pounds of beef annually, as they did years ago, instead of 50 to 60 pounds as they do at present. Live-stock people must study the beef trade just as a merchant does. . . . Producers must keep their costs at such a point that they can still make a profit at reasonable prices

and prevent the market for beef from becoming prohibitive." As to his own business, concerning which there are often misunderstandings on the part of the public, Mr. Cabell stated that "packers' net profits are not a factor of consequence either in the price of live stock or in the price of meat."

Live-Stock Freight Rates

Regarding live-stock freight rates, the packer, the speaker stated, has always stood shoulder to shoulder with live-stock representatives in demanding the lowest possible charges; but "when fat cattle reach the market and are sold, they are no longer the producer's cattle. They belong either to us or to one of our competitors. . . ."

"We have been sharply criticized," the speaker continued, "for objecting to our competitor, the eastern packer, having a cheaper rate for moving the steer on the hoof than we had for moving the product equivalent. This cheaper rate was to be brought about by extending to the live-stock purchaser the producer's right to re-ship beyond the market at the balance of the through rate, with no corresponding reduction in meat rates.

"Where we had contended for this very privilege for the producer himself, we were compelled by the first law of self-preservation to resist its extension to our competing packer, for the simple reason that it meant that his carcass of beef would go on the hook in New York out of his New York plant, on the average, 23 cents per cwt. cheaper than we could put a like carcass on the hook in New York out of one of our western plants.

"We firmly believe that our policy, under which all classes of live-stock buyers are kept on a basis of rate equality, is of far greater benefit to the live-stock producers as a whole than the occasional ten or fifteen cents which the eastern packer sometimes gave to the occasional shipper. . . ."

Taxation of Business

With regard to the tendency in recent years to make business an agency for collecting taxes, Mr. Cabell said: "If the public understands that it must pay these taxes and that we are merely acting as the collector for the government, then I have no complaint to make; but if, as I fear will be true, the public is not informed that higher prices for meat and lower prices for live stock are the result of taxes and not the result of packers' profits, grave consequences are in prospect.

"It seems to me that the stagnation resulting from this procedure of tax collecting through business can ruin all industry and eventually destroy all industrial income in the country. If the products of all industries are so taxed we are certain to see scarcity in every family, business losses despite high prices, and the seeds of discontent."

MEETING OF ARIZONA CATTLE GROWERS

BY WILL C. BARNES

Phoenix, Arizona

NEARLY FOUR HUNDRED WIDE-AWAKE UP-AND-coming Arizona cattlemen met for their thirty-second annual convention on February 18-19 at Tucson, the birth-place of the organization in 1904.

In opening the first session, President Frank Boice warned his hearers against the impending control and supervision of the cattlemen's ranges by Washington bureaucrats. He felt that the men themselves were far more capable of determining questions of carrying-capacity and overstocking than officials who gave the ranges what he called "long-distance supervision." It was his opinion that in general the

affairs of the western cattlemen were in fairly good shape, provided always that the administration kept its hands off the industry and did not hamstring it by means of processing taxes, lower tariffs, and entrance of dressed meats from the South American countries. He criticized the Forest Service for the delay in issuing new ten-year permits. (Since adjournment, this matter has been settled, though not quite as had been hoped.) Mr. Boice urged all stockmen to handle their surplus cattle so as not to be loaded up during the winters with animals they should have taken from the ranges in the fall. "The man who each fall sells his herd down to the carrying-capacity of his range, especially culling his old cows, has always come out winner," he stated.

Dr. H. L. Shantz, president of the University of Arizona, who retires in June to head the new wild-life bureau, outlined his ideas as to the plans he hoped to put into effect in handling game and wild life on the forest areas. He believed there would be no friction between the two lines.

Albert K. Mitchell, the new president of the American National Live Stock Association, assured the meeting that the Argentine sanitary pact "hasn't a chance of passing." He stated also that when he left Washington the fight waged by the different associations led him to predict that there would be no processing tax on cattle or cattle products at this session of Congress. "The western cattlemen," Mr. Mitchell declared, "do not propose to be taxed to cover losses of eastern farmers on their operations if it can be avoided. We have plenty of troubles of our own to face and should not be asked to dig into our pockets to help other producers out."

Dan McKinney, of the Arizona Live Stock Production Credit Association, gave the meeting a resume of the situation concerning credits for live-stock growers which cleared up several questions as to just how far the credit association can or will go in assisting range stockmen in financing their affairs.

Mr. Ryan—a grave-faced official—western representative of the Division of Grazing in the Department of the Interior, with headquarters at Los Angeles, explained what his organization has done so far toward placing the public domain under grazing administration. The matter of tentative fees of 1 cent a head for sheep and 5 cents for cattle per month was mentioned, although just how the fees were to be worked out was not explained—whether the same fee covered all ranges alike, regardless of the many well-known matters which make one range area worth just about ten times as much as another a few miles distant. The speaker stated they are undertaking to classify the lands as to carrying capacity, forage cover, etc.—some big job, if you listen to this writer.

D. A. Shoemaker, grazing expert of the Forest Service at Albuquerque, explained the present situation regarding the issuance of ten-year permits.

The question of the "long-and-short-haul" law was discussed by two representatives of the railroad labor unions who urged resolutions favoring the passage of the Pettengill bill. Charles E. Blaine, the wide-awake and efficient traffic manager of the association, followed the gentlemen and met every argument they offered by facts and figures so well stated as to leave them not a leg to stand upon.

Dean Stanley, of the University of Arizona, at the noon session and luncheon out at the university's "commons," where Charles Pickerell, live-stock specialist of the university, was the capable toastmaster, explained how the work now being done by his organization at the University Farm in supplementary mineral feeding of cattle was progressing.

H. S. Palmer, in charge of the work of appraising and classifying the Arizona state lands, told the stockmen of the results so far accomplished. Robert V. Boyle, district director of the Soil Conservation Service in the Gila Valley, outlined the several types of erosion control now being used to prevent further erosion and cure in part some areas already almost ruined.

A banquet and ball for the members and their wives, together with a luncheon downtown for the ladies and another out at the university for everybody, were enjoyable social events.

In the closing hours of the sessions, the nominating committee recommended that President Frank Boice, of Sonoita, be re-elected for another year, with Wayne Thornburg, of Phoenix, as vice-president. L. P. Horrell, of Globe, was named second vice-president; Dr. R. N. Looney, of Prescott, treasurer; and Mrs. J. M. Keith, secretary. The lively little city of Douglas, down along the Mexican border, was selected for next year's convention.

One of the high-lights of the meeting was the address (?) just before adjournment by Harry J. Saxon, of Willcox. He was down on the program under the heading of "*Quien Sabe?*" (Who Knows?) His talk was a mixture of rich humor and good, sound common sense.

One of the pleasantest incidents of the meeting was the gift of an automobile to Mrs. J. M. Keith, the popular and efficient secretary of the organization for many years past. It was an expression of the love and esteem in which the lady is held by everybody.

The following resolutions were passed unanimously:

Opposing present policy of administration in negotiating reciprocal trade agreements by delegating to President right to negotiate without having approval of Senate in accordance with long established policy;

Condemning Argentine sanitary pact;

Asking compulsory government grading and stamping of beef shipped in interstate commerce;

Pledging support to American National Live Stock Association;

Opposing taxes to provide payments for processing any agricultural products;

Indorsing Kleberg bill which would place tax of 10 cents a pound on margarine not made 100 per cent of domestic fats and oils;

Requesting branding of shoes or boots made from materials other than leather;

Approving work of National Live Stock and Meat Board;

Opposing Capper-Hope-Wearin bills, which propose control of marketing of live stock.

Commending FCA for establishing intermediate credit agencies, recommending use of this type of credit, and observing that "stockmen have suffered from too liberal credit in times of prosperity and too limited credit in times of depression."

Requesting that portion of revenues from grazing on national forests now going to states be appropriated for policing of ranges;

Commending work of Biological Survey and director of FERA for good work in eradicating predatory animals and rodents;

Asking that funds received from sales of furs and pelts secured by Biological Survey in predatory-animal work be added by state law to appropriations for predatory-animal work;

Commending Department of Animal Industry of University of Arizona for general work for good of cattle industry;

Requesting Indian Service to make as few changes in handling of grazing leases to cattlemen on several Indian reservations as possible, so that lessees may not be unnecessarily disturbed by changes in their operations under leases;

Opposing creation of additional grazing districts in Arizona or expansion of present 80,000,000-acre maximum until constructive and satisfactory administration of present grazing districts has been accomplished;

Opposing Pettengill bill now before Congress.

STATE WOOL GROWERS' RESOLUTIONS

THE NATIONAL WOOL GROWER, OFFICIAL ORGAN of the National Wool Growers' Association, presents a digest of the action taken at five recent state wool growers' conventions—Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Montana, and Utah—as summarized below:

Tariff.—All five organizations registered objections to tariff-making through reciprocal trade agreements and favored retention of import duties on live stock and agricultural products, at least as high as those prescribed in law of 1930. Idaho asked repeal of Reciprocal Trade Agreement Act. Oregon wanted no change in duties. Washington favored present rates and opposed reciprocal trade agreements. Montana requested repeal of act of 1934 and "abrogation of existing trade treaties, tariffs, or agreements detrimental to agriculture." Utah opposed "trade agreements or treaties that will allow entry of materials of which we can produce adequate supply." It was also demanded that trade agreements be subjected to approval by Congress.

Argentine Imports.—Four conventions resolved to request their senators to oppose confirmation of Argentine sanitary convention.

Taylor Grazing Act.—Idaho expressed opinion that regulation of public ranges in that state has not been shown to be necessary. Oregon recommended "consolidation of federal grazing administration in one division specifically charged with responsibility of administering and developing grazing resources on such lands." Montana favored present administration of act, but asked that federal lands lying within Taylor districts be handled under Montana state law. Utah expressed opposition to recent rulings on classification of owned property with respect to its nearness to a district, and offered definition of "nearness" as "close enough to be used in connection with public ranges in district in usual and customary live-stock operations." Utah also asked that no fees be charged until term permits are issued, and then in amounts not to exceed one-half cent per sheep per month. Utah also opposed grouping of state lands into large bodies for administration independent of act.

Predatory Animals.—All states asked for additional federal, state, or local funds for predatory-animal work.

Markets.—Idaho, Montana, and Utah opposed legislation such as proposed in Capper bill. Idaho asked for expedition of incomplete cases on stock-yard and commission charges. Washington asked for review of charges for yardage at St. Paul market. Montana asked that collection at markets for National Live Stock and Meat Board be increased to \$1 a car. Oregon approved grading of meat. Utah requested packers to mark lamb carcasses and wholesale cuts with their brand name.

Freight Rates.—Idaho, Oregon, and Utah opposed Pettengill bill. Idaho opposed efforts of railroads to collect extra charges for loading, unloading, and other service. Oregon requested one-day-a-week service from interior points on Union Pacific to Portland for less-than-carload lots at rate now applied on regular shipments, and that reductions be made in line with rates recently published in other states to meet truck competition. Washington asked establishment of round-trip rates on sheep shipped to summer ranges and reduction in feeding-in-transit rates. Montana asked State Sanitary Board to devise methods of laying dust in railroad loading corrals at shipping time. Attention of shippers was called to inconsistency of charges on feeder lambs to central markets and country points. Support was promised to Los Angeles, Ogden, and Salt Lake interests endeavoring to have through rates to California markets made applicable via shortest routes. Railroads were requested to discontinue leasing of feed-yards and to take charge of servicing of shipments stopped for feed, rest, and water en route to market.

Wool Marketing.—Idaho asked discontinuance of custom of discounts by buyers for tags in purchasing wool from country. Oregon arranged for appointment of committee to investigate feasibility of establishing wool auctions. Montana asked that commission charges for handling consigned wools be reduced to 1½ cents a pound.

Forest Grazing.—Idaho and Montana insisted that lack of ten-year permits undermined stability of industry. Oregon protested against reductions in forest grazing permits except where actual damage to forage was apparent. Utah considered it neither "wise, legal, nor right to reduce one permittee for purpose of increasing permits of others, or to put new men into business at expense of those already in and having properties dependent on national forest permits." Issuance of ten-

year permits in 1936 was called for, these to be subject to reduction for range protection only.

Game.—Oregon asked that member of wool growers' association be given place on State Game Commission, that President's proclamation respecting Hart Mountain Antelope Reserve be reconsidered, and that "jurisdiction over game areas in which prior use for game is recognized be continued with division of grazing." Utah expressed approval of propagation and preservation of wild life in proper places and reasonable numbers, but asked for legislation to protect farmers.

Wool Promotion.—All states favored collection by wool-buyers and commission houses of 10 cents a bag to be paid to Associated Wool Industries and used in promoting wool consumption.

ARKANSAS VALLEY STOCKMEN MEET

A PROGRAM OF DROUGHT-LAND REHABILITATION was demanded in resolutions adopted by the Arkansas Valley Stock Feeders' Association at its twenty-fourth annual convention, held in Las Animas, Colorado, on February 12. Other resolutions requested the Interstate Commerce Commission to give consideration to production and transportation of live stock before granting any increases in carrier rates, and urged the Colorado congressional delegation to assist in ratification of the St. Lawrence waterway treaty.

I. F. Haines, of Rocky Ford, was elected president; E. J. Wagner, Lamar, vice-president; and John L. Anderson, Las Animas, secretary-treasurer.

The Arkansas Valley association is affiliated with the American National.

COLORADO RUSTLING PROBLEM TACKLED

OUTSTANDING AMONG THE MATTERS OF MOMENT to the state's live-stock industry brought up at the midwinter meeting of the Colorado Stock Growers' and Feeders' Association, held at Denver in January, was the problem of curbing the "rubber-tired" cattle rustler.

The meeting went on record as opposing increased valuation on cattle, for taxation purposes in 1936, of more than 20 per cent; an average valuation on cattle of \$15 a head was proposed. Resolutions adopted at former meetings of the organization were approved and declared to be in force.

Since the midwinter sessions were held, the organization has issued a 16-page booklet which is designed to educate stockmen, law officers, truckmen, and the public in state live-stock laws pertaining to rustling, inspection, transportation, auctions, and brands. Of importance is the law that truckers "demand that the shipper furnish all necessary certificates, bills of sale, and permits . . . subject to inspection en route and at destination by any peace officer," the booklet declares. Commenting on this phase of the law, Dr. B. F. Davis, secretary of the organization, stated: "The road agent has to cart his plunder over the highways, and that is where to get at him."

The annual meeting of the association will take place at Fort Collins, Colorado, June 11-13.

FARM CASH RECEIPTS GAIN

A 12 PER CENT GAIN LAST YEAR IN CASH RECEIPTS by farmers from the sale of principal farm products and from rental and benefit payments is reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Largest gains were in the eastern Corn Belt states, Kentucky, Oklahoma, and the mountain states.

Total receipts, including sales and rental and benefit payments, were \$6,832,932,000 in 1935, compared with \$6,102,901,000 in 1934, \$4,871,608,000 in 1933, and \$4,235,362,000 in 1932.

Smallest improvement in income was in the south-Atlantic region. The states showing reduced income in 1935 were Maine, Nebraska, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Alabama, and New Mexico.

Increased farm income last year was due primarily to a 20 per cent rise in the general level of farm prices, says the report. Crop-price gains were relatively small, "but prices for live stock and live-stock products advanced considerably, causing a marked variation in the different regions in the extent of the improvement in farm income over 1934."

Marked increases in cash receipts in Indiana and neighboring states and in most of the mountain states and Oklahoma resulted principally from increased income from live stock.

In Kentucky and Louisiana larger rental and benefit payments, together with increased income from live stock, were mainly responsible for the greater income.

NEW SANITARY RULING IN IOWA

CATTLE FROM OTHER THAN ACCREDITED TERRITORIES unless tested are prohibited entry into Iowa under its new sanitary ruling effective February 15. Stock from accredited areas, in which are included most of the western states, are being accepted under certain regulations of identity.

The conditions to be complied with read as follows:

"1. CATTLE THAT ORIGINATE IN ACCREDITED TUBERCULOSIS-FREE COUNTIES—

"(A) Steers, spayed heifers, and bull calves of recognized beef breeds not under quarantine may be shipped into the state of Iowa under quarantine for feeding and grazing purposes if accompanied by an official health certificate signed by a regularly employed Bureau of Animal Industry veterinarian, showing them to be apparently free from any contagious or infectious disease and that they originate in a tuberculosis-free accredited area. (Cattle originating in other than range or semi-range territory must be identified by a metal tag in the right ear).

"(B) Female cattle of recognized beef types may enter the state of Iowa for feeding and grazing purposes under the same conditions as steers, except that owner's agreement must be signed by the owner. . . .

"(C) Where bull calves are shipped into Iowa for feeding purposes, owner must make the usual written declaration that they will be castrated within thirty days.

"2. CATTLE THAT ORIGINATE IN NON-ACCREDITED COUNTIES—

"(A) All cattle, including steers, from non-accredited territory, must be tested before moving into Iowa unless accompanied by a certificate, signed by an accredited veterinarian showing that they have passed a negative tuberculin test within 90 days prior to entry into Iowa, and test chart must accompany them. . . ."

LIVE STOCK ON FARMS AND RANCHES

DECREASES IN THE COUNTRY'S SUPPLY OF cattle, sheep, horses, and mules and an increase in hogs are shown in the annual inventory of the Crop Reporting Board of the Department of Agriculture for January 1, 1936. On that date cattle numbered 68,213,000 head, compared with 68,529,000 (revised figure) a year earlier—a decrease of 0.5 per cent. Value per head was \$34.09, compared with \$20.22 the year before. This was the highest value per head since 1931.

Milk cows (cows and heifers two years old and over kept for milk), which are included in the total of all cattle, numbered 25,622,000 head, compared with 26,236,000 head a year earlier. Value rose from \$30.13 to \$49.18. Yearling heifers kept for milk fell 3.5 per cent, while the heifer calves

being kept for milk numbered nearly 5 per cent more than in 1935.

Sheep, including lambs, numbered 51,673,000 head, of which 46,380,000 were stock sheep and the remainder sheep and lambs on feed. Value per head was \$6.34, compared with \$4.33 a year earlier.

Hog numbers were estimated at 42,541,000, which is an increase over a year ago of about 9 per cent; but compared with the average number for 1932-33 it was a decrease of about 30 per cent. Value per head rose from \$6.31 a year ago to \$12.68.

Subjoined is a table giving estimated number, value per head, and total value of all classes of live stock on January 1 for the years 1936, 1935, 1930, and 1920:

Year	Number	Value Per Head	Total Value
All Cattle and Calves—			
1936.....	68,213,000	\$34.09	\$2,325,586,000
1935.....	68,529,000	20.22	1,385,948,000
1930.....	61,003,000	56.36	3,438,056,000
1920.....	70,435,000	52.64	3,707,911,000
*Milk Cows and Heifers—			
1936.....	25,622,000	49.18	1,260,193,000
1935.....	26,236,000	30.13	790,386,000
1930.....	23,106,000	82.65	1,909,665,000
1920.....	21,455,000	81.51	1,748,820,000
All Sheep and Lambs—			
1936.....	51,673,000	6.38	329,569,000
1935.....	52,210,000	4.31	225,073,000
1930.....	51,536,000	8.93	460,314,000
1920.....	40,743,000	10.44	425,829,000
Swine and Pigs—			
1936.....	42,541,000	12.68	539,561,000
1935.....	39,004,000	6.31	246,196,000
1930.....	55,705,000	13.45	749,481,000
1920.....	60,159,000	20.00	1,203,052,000
Horses and Colts—			
1936.....	11,637,000	96.79	1,126,400,000
1935.....	11,861,000	77.05	913,870,000
1930.....	13,742,000	69.98	961,664,000
1920.....	20,161,000	96.48	1,942,809,000
Mules and Mule Colts—			
1936.....	4,685,000	120.42	564,186,000
1935.....	4,822,000	99.34	478,908,000
1930.....	5,282,000	83.93	451,725,000
1920.....	5,656,000	148.25	838,530,000

*Dairy, beef, and dual-purpose cows and heifers, two years old and over, kept for milk.

LONE STAR STATE ACCREDITED

ON MARCH 2 THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE designated Texas as an area practically free of cattle tuberculosis. It is the thirty-eighth state to be classified as a modified accredited area, signifying that the degree of tuberculosis among the cattle in this area is now less than 0.5 per cent as indicated by official tuberculin tests.

THE CALENDAR

- March 14-22, 1936—Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show, Fort Worth, Tex.
- April 5-9, 1936—Interstate Junior Live Stock and Baby Beef Show, South San Francisco, Cal.
- May 21-23, 1936—Annual Convention of Montana Stock Growers' Association, Billings, Mont.
- May 25-26, 1936—Annual Convention of Washington Cattle-men's Association, Okanogan, Wash.
- May 28-29, 1936—Annual Convention of Cattle and Horse Raisers' Association of Oregon, John Day, Ore.
- June 2-3, 1936—Annual Convention of Wyoming Stock Growers' Association, Sheridan, Wyo.
- June 4-6, 1936—Annual Convention of Nebraska Stock Growers' Association, Chadron, Neb.
- June 11, 1936—Annual Cattle Feeders' Day, Ft. Collins, Colo.
- June 11-13, 1936—Annual Convention of Colorado Stock Growers' and Feeders' Association, Ft. Collins, Colo.

"I think THE PRODUCER is valuable to any stockman. I find in it many good ideas."—F. E. RITTEL, Wolf Creek, Mont.

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ANOTHER PROCESSING-TAX PROPOSAL

DESPITE THE GENERAL FEELING OF RELIEF with which both producers and consumers acclaimed the Supreme Court's decision on the AAA processing taxes, the President has just sent a tax message to Congress, in which he suggests processing taxes on various agricultural commodities as one of the methods available to help raise a billion dollars or so to pay up back debts of the AAA, finance the new farm program for the coming year, and pay an instalment on the bonus.

At this writing full details are not available, although it is understood that cattlemen may expect a tax of about 8 cents a hundred on their marketable (for slaughter) offerings. A meeting is scheduled for Salt Lake City on March 9-11, at which representatives of the AAA will confide to farmers and ranchmen their plans for western agriculture. One enterprising senator has broadcast the information that a way will be found for stockmen to participate

in the "benefits." Spokesmen for the dairy industry assert that rewording of certain phrases of the soil conservation amendment (the base of the new plan) in conference between the House and the Senate insures payments on areas already planted to leguminous crops.

Judgment must be reserved until the tax bill becomes law and the rules and regulations for operating the new program are made public. If the rumors referred to are founded on fact, they are more disturbing than reassuring. They would offer assurance only that each individual who could qualify would get his share in the cutting of a \$500,000,000 melon; but can anyone demonstrate the net profit in hiring one government bureau to collect this huge sum in processing taxes on the sale of your commodities, and another bureau to pay it back in "benefits"? Will not there be a considerable administration expense in both transactions that can only be charged up as loss or waste?

To the extent that a soil-conservation program is honestly and economically administered on a non-political basis, paying benefits only for new areas taken out of soil-depleting crop production and putting in nitrogen-developing crops, to that very extent can it hope to show permanent results and justify its continuation. On any other basis it must fail through lack of concrete accomplishment.

As to the merits of placing a tax on cattle or sheep, many producers of which cannot qualify for benefit payments nor will want to do so in order to pay benefits to farmers in the Corn and Cotton Belts, the AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER will let the roar of protest that is going up all over the West stand as the best answer. "Robbing Peter to pay Paul" has never found favor in our democracy, and the cattle-producer who goes home from market out of pocket a sizeable sum paid in taxes on his load of cows, sold at a disappointing price in competition with Canadian and Mexican beef admitted at lower tariff rates under the Canadian pact, is going to do some loud cussing and some deep thinking. We have not yet reached the point where forced regimentation, as contemplated under such a plan, is popular. May we never reach that stage!

DAIRYMEN'S DRIVE FOR MONOPOLY

VARIOUS DAIRY JOURNALS AND FARM papers catering to the dairy interests have been active in trying to build up a case for a tax of from 5 to 10 cents a pound on all margarine, whether manufactured from domestic or from foreign fats and oils. In addition, the drive for monopoly is rounded out with various measures, state and federal, to prevent the purchase of margarine

with any funds appropriated for relief purposes or for use in public institutions. One could not but admire their perseverance if the methods employed and the reasons given for their demands were able to stand up under close scrutiny.

An attempt is made to show that the beef-cattle producer has only scant interest in this subject; that it is mainly the problem of the cotton-oil producer; and that the latter has more to lose in the sale of cottonseed products to the dairy industry than he can hope to gain on the oil side of it. None of these claims are well founded.

First—Regardless of the quantity of oleo oil currently used in margarine manufacture, the beef-cattle producer has a major interest in maintaining the price-level of edible fats on as high a plane as possible, because oleo oil, in demand for many edible uses, is the second most important by-product of the cattle industry.

Second—A tax of 5 cents a pound or more on domestic fats and oils used in the margarine trade would have a depressing effect on their price-level.

Third—The dairy industry does not buy cottonseed meal because of any love for the cottonseed producer. It buys its protein supplement purely on a basis of convenience and commerce, and will continue to do so regardless of what use is made of cottonseed oil.

Fourth—If there were any merit to the argument about the purchase of cottonseed meal, it is a well-known fact that fully as much cottonseed meal is purchased by the cattle and sheep industries for range and feed-lot use as is bought by the dairy industry. As a matter of fact, farm dairy producers use very little protein supplement wherever alfalfa hay is available.

With 12,000,000 people unemployed, the consumer side of the matter demands attention. By what claim can the dairy industry demand a tax upon the product of another domestic producer, thereby increasing the cost to the consumer? Taxing margarine does not magically enable millions of people with low purchasing power to buy butter, and no man should be allowed to say that if you cannot buy butter you must go without a bread spread.

The American National Live Stock Association will continue to champion the principle that any domestic producer has the right to the domestic market without penalty on one in order to favor another. The margarine business should be put on a domestic basis, either through the passage of the Kleberg bill in the federal Congress or by similar laws in the individual states, placing a tax on any product containing foreign fats or oils. Where local conditions justify, these state laws could provide for an animal-fat requirement of from 40 to 50 per cent, the

remainder to be vegetable oils. But no industry has a right to demand or expect a complete monopoly on a food product consumed by 130,000,000 people.

WEIGHTS ON COUNTRY-TO-COUNTRY SHIPMENTS

FOR YEARS, LIVE-STOCK RATES IN THE intermountain and Pacific-coast territories were all levied upon a dollars-per-car basis. Concurrently, in the territory east they were stated in amounts per hundred pounds, based upon varying minimum weights. However, as the railroads did not equip themselves with hoof-scales nor attempt to use their track-scales, the charges, generally speaking, were collected upon "basis minimum weights." Interterritorial rates were not stated uniformly; many were on the per-car basis, and some in amounts per hundred pounds.

In 1931 the Interstate Commerce Commission prescribed rates in amounts per hundred pounds, but authorized railroads to convert and publish them on a per-car basis predicated upon average loading of the various classes of stock in each rate territory or on each rail line. The railroads did not elect so to convert and publish the rates. On the contrary, in January, 1932, in purported compliance with the decision of the commission in the *Western Live-Stock Case*, they published them in amounts per hundred pounds in connection with varying minima.

About three years ago the railroads undertook to enforce collection on an actual weight basis when in excess of the minima, going so far as to insert into tariff weighing rules a penalty of 10 per cent where weights were not obtained, *even though the railroads did not have available facilities for obtaining such weights*. This rule was modified upon protest of the American National Live Stock Association, and the penalty now applies only where the shipper has obtained weights and refuses to render them to the railroad agent.

As a whole, the new system inaugurated by the railroads has worked very badly. It is proving to be a source of constant irritation and trouble, as shippers resent haphazard methods of catching weights, and if continued on the present basis it will cost the railroads in good-will many times the amount, if any, gained in revenue.

Shipments are weighed in every imaginable manner, and some of the results obtained are not even close guesses. Track-scale weights are obtained in some instances many miles from unloading point. Then the cars are returned there for empty weighing and the shipper asked to pay freight on all bedding kicked out when stock is unloaded, or shaken or blown out on the return empty trip; or, worse yet,

stenciled tare car-weight is used, and the shipper magnanimously allowed to pay freight on several thousand pounds of dirt, sand, manure, and moisture. It is a great system.

As a preliminary to bringing an end to this confused and impossible state of affairs, a conference was held in January at Phoenix with several railroad representatives. A follow-up meeting is scheduled early in March at Amarillo, with President Mitchell, Secretary Mollin, and Charles E. Blaine, traffic counsel, representing the American National. If satisfactory steps are not taken to correct the present situation, there is no other course open to shippers but a formal complaint before the Interstate Commerce Commission. It is hoped it will not come to that, and that the railroad executives instead will elect to take whatever steps are necessary to correct the present situation, unsatisfactory alike to shippers and traffic officials.

NO FEED, NO KILL—SO WHAT?

THIS LITTLE STORY GOES BACK TO THE days of the drought when the government sent its men out to the burnt-up farms and ranges of the West to buy millions of cattle on short rations of feed and water.

It was agreed that the cattle thus acquired were to be slaughtered; that no commercial use would be made of the salvaged product, through which medium hundreds of millions of pounds of wholesome, nutritious canned beef were made available to the needy.

But the cattle came in faster than they could be processed, and so some were located temporarily on pastures in southeastern states, a few even in Old Mexico. It was understood that these were later to be turned over to state relief agencies; but about that time the Indian Service, anxious to do its daily good deed for its wards, managed to upset the agreement, and some 100,000 head of this remnant were turned over to the Service for distribution on the reservations.

Now, an Indian regards a cow, not as a commercial enterprise, but as an immediate source of food. Hence the tribesmen were pained to learn that the agreement between the three or four alphabetical agencies that had tossed the poor cows around was that none were to be eaten until a replacement calf arrived. As to the barren cows, it is not clear whether they were to be permitted to "adopt" replacements, or whether the agreement insured them lasting immunity from the block.

Anyhow, the good-doers of the Indian Service, late in the fall of 1935, ordered some of the cows just returned from Mexico sent to a North Dakota reservation—even a greenhorn stockman would have

known better. And here Old Man Winter took a hand—many feet of snow, long days of below-zero weather. So what could the poor Indian do, what with "no feed, no kill"? The cows are dying on the range, while a delegation of Indians goes to Washington to try to unwind enough red tape to bust the agreement and salvage some beef. If the Service must be adamant, if it must maintain discipline, it ought at least to be willing to reverse the process and summer the cows in North Dakota and winter them in Mexico.

THE "CALIFORNIA CATTLEMAN"

FROM THE THIRD NUMBER OF THE NEW-est cattle publication in the field—the *California Cattleman*, published by the California Cattlemen's Association—its first issue appearing just at the turn of the year, we quote the below editorial, entitled "Join Your Association":

The recent conventions of the California Cattlemen's Association and the American National Live Stock Association, held at San Francisco and Phoenix, respectively, proved one thing in particular—the importance of concerted effort by producers through a medium such as an association.

As the work of the past year was reviewed and plans for the future explained, one was tempted to imagine just what would be the situation in the industry if such a central, representative body was not functioning on behalf of the producers.

What, for instance, would be the result if there were no body fighting against such a matter as the effort to lift the embargo on Argentine beef? That is just one of the numerous problems facing the industry which the associations are tackling.

Yet, despite the fact that these associations have proved to be invaluable to the industry and to the respective territories they represent, there are cattlemen who fail to support them.

Why is this?

It is not because the producer does not know of the concrete benefits which the association is able to bring to the industry and to himself. That has been clearly demonstrated.

Unquestionably, the reason why most producers fail to pay their dues is because they simply overlook the matter. As it is impossible for the association to send personal solicitors to every ranch, practically all solicitations must be carried on by mail.

If you happen to be one of those who have overlooked the question of paying 1936 dues, we suggest that you clip and fill out the dues coupon on page four of this issue and mail to the California Cattlemen's Association, 595 Mission street, San Francisco, California.

Our indorsement of these paragraphs goes without saying; and to the members of the American National who are in arrears we suggest that payment of dues is the best way you can serve the industry and benefit yourselves.

The new *California Cattleman* is welcomed to the field of live-stock publications. We wish it success.

THE STOCKMEN'S EXCHANGE

A CANADIAN VIEW OF THE TRADE PACT

TO THE PRODUCER:—Much has recently been said in newspapers and magazine articles and by officials of live-stock organizations or members of the live-stock industry and others in the United States as to the wisdom or need for the recent trade agreement between Canada and the United States so far as it relates to cattle.

The general trend of these remarks is to the effect that Canadian cattle are not needed in the United States, and that the reduction of the tariff, even though granted on the basis of a quota, will afford Canadian cattlemen the opportunity of dumping their surplus cattle on the United States markets to the detriment of the American live-stock producer without any corresponding benefit accruing to the States.

The field is a very large one, the agreement not affecting the cattle industry alone, but covering some hundreds of mutual concessions in all departments of trade and commerce between the two countries.

From the beginning of the year 1935, owing to scarcity in supply of fat cattle (which was freely admitted), United States' market prices rose to a point where choice Canadian cattle could be shipped in, and, notwithstanding the heavy duty of 3 cents per 100 pounds, return to the owners a net price in excess of that obtainable on our local markets. As the year went on, this state of affairs continued, even after the natural rise in our home markets had followed. There was no particular objection from the American cattlemen then, nor any suggestion of dumping, because, as a matter of fact, *they did need* the assistance of the Canadian cattle to fill the demand for fat cattle, and no discrimination was made by the buyers, who paid full value for all Canadian cattle which were being shipped steadily and in an orderly manner. Furthermore, immediately the shipping became regular, Canada was inundated with American cattle-buyers clamoring for Canadian cattle, calves, stockers, and feeders to ship across the line to supply the needs, as evidenced by their increasing prices. The result of this was that during the whole year 123,000 Canadian cattle, including feeders, cows, and calves, crossed the line.

As soon as the trade agreement lowered the tariff, a cry went up and many wild statements and objections were raised. The Canadian concessions were described as "chicken-feed" and Canada's cattle as "bundle-fed" and "warmed-up," with no legitimate place in the beef supply, and even though limited by the quota, however small, they were not needed.

Statistics show that for the past ten years Canadian exports to the United States and Great Britain averaged only 180,000 cattle a year, and the quota into the United States for 1936 was placed at 155,000 beef cattle over 700 pounds from all countries.

Canada in 1933 and 1934 was shipping to Great Britain, where prices enabled a small portion of her surplus to be marketed; but this was a very uncertain business, and, owing to the long journey and heavy shrink, was very precarious and sometimes unsatisfactory to shippers from western Canada. Early in 1935, prices there had dropped until it ceased to offer a market. Western Canadian beef cattle producers were urging the Dominion government to find them a market nearer and more convenient for their surplus, not as a dumping ground, but where a portion of their cattle might find a legitimate market within a reasonable distance and with more advantageous returns. The United States was the logical location, and the result was the trade agreement. The Canadian government is now being advised to regulate the quality of cattle to be shipped under the quota to the United States.

The methods of diplomats are wonderful and subtle. It is not always wise to indicate too clearly at the commencement the main object of the negotiations nor the concessions to be offered. It is not generally possible to make concessions in the same line of business, consequently concessions may have to be made which those in that particular industry consider to be to their detriment, although for the good of a large section of the community. What is one man's meat is another man's poison, but there should be an element of "give and take," so long as the final general result is advantageous. It is even then not always possible to get all that is asked for; but to do so, somebody must absorb something not needed by everybody in order to get something needed by somebody.

The cattle situation in the United States in relation to the agreement is not really so bad as it has been painted. The Canadian surplus is not so large as it is made out to be, and, if judicious and regulated use is made of the quota, it may be found not so objectionable as at first anticipated.

The Canadian concessions will be found advantageous to certain lines of United States' industries, and so long as their own business is not seriously affected (and it should not be so affected if the shipments are properly regulated, even if the entire quota is filled) the American cattlemen should be glad of the opportunity to help out their Canadian brothers by giving them a share in their better market. The better the price that Canadian cattle make on the United States markets, the better will be the price in the Canadian home markets, and this in itself will tend to keep many Canadian cattle from being shipped across the line, leaving that to the more speculative and adventurous, with a possibility of the full extent of the quota not being shipped.

The recent improvement in the British markets, if continued, may soon reach a point of again offering an alternative market for Canadian cattle, particularly to eastern Canada, and especially when coupled with the continued lowering prices in the American markets.

In conclusion, let me say that the western Canada live-stock men are grateful to the United States for such a splendid example of international co-operation as the lowering of the tariff on cattle.

JACK BYERS,

Manager, Western Stock Growers' Association.
Calgary, Canada.

OUTLINE OF TEN-YEAR GRAZING POLICY

FOLLOWING A SERIES OF CONFERENCES WITH representatives of the American National Live Stock Association and the National Wool Growers' Association and senators and representatives of several western states, the new policy under which permits will be issued to graze live stock on the national forests was announced on February 20 by F. A. Silcox, chief of the Forest Service.

As approved by the Secretary of Agriculture, it provides for the issuance, beginning with 1936, of ten-year permits to established permittees for their preference numbers of stock within the maximum limits and for which their ranch property is commensurate. Permittees over the maximum limit must consult their regional forester in order to get waiver of the amount over the maximum limit and secure term permits for their full preference numbers.

The greatest amount of discussion at the conferences centered on the policy of distribution, and many misleading press reports have been circulated as to what transpired. The stand taken by the two national live-stock organizations was not on behalf of any one class or size of permittee. There has been a growing conviction on the part of forest users, both large and small, that the policy of constant distribution is ruinous, prevents stability with reference to credit operations, and in the final analysis would make the forests of little use to anybody. As the best possible example of what this policy, carried to the extreme, would mean, the situation in Utah is cited. There the average cattle permit is for twenty-three head; and many who had formerly favored a scheme of liberal distribution now realize and admit that it has gone too far in that state.

The Forest Service is beginning to recognize the need for a more permanent policy, and to that end is initiating in many districts a study on which future planning can be based. The new system recognizes all the various conflicting interests in this involved problem, provides some margin to take care of current demand for access to the forest, and yet holds out some hope to the present users that in the long run a permanent policy will be established that does not contemplate providing such access to one permittee at the expense of another. No change is made in the transfer cut.

Following is Mr. Silcox's grazing policy:

"1. Term permits for the period 1936 to 1945, inclusive, will be issued for preference numbers of stock within the maximum limit and the commensurateness of established permittees. No reduction in preference numbers of live stock will be made in 1936. Each permit will contain a clause specifying the reduction percentage that can be made for distribution. Such reduction, when taken together with reductions for distribution made in 1935, shall not exceed 20 per cent in any case for the term permit period 1936 to 1945, inclusive. No greater reduction than 5 per cent will be made for distribution in any one year.

"2. The maximum reduction that can be made for any or all purposes shall not exceed 30 per cent, or 15 per cent in any one year, for the period 1935 to 1940, inclusive. At the expiration of the year 1940, such reductions for protection can be made in term permits as the circumstances justify.

"3. Transactions involving protective and distribution reductions will be kept separate. Increased carrying capacity resulting from protection cuts will be recognized as belonging to the allotment or other unit on which the cut was made, and will be distributed among the users of that allotment or unit on an equitable basis.

"4. Before making any adjustment under this program, the details involved will be taken up with the local stockmen and their views given full consideration before conclusions are reached."

BUSINESS CONDITIONS

A SLIGHT RECESSION OCCURRED IN GENERAL business and industrial activity during the first three weeks of February; but the recent level of industry and trade is still well above that of the corresponding period last year, and the outlook for a resumption of the upward trend of past months is still promising. Automobile production and heavy construction awards are again pointing upward after a slight drop during January and the first part of February. Activity in the capital goods industries holds out potentialities for business recovery; their index figure, based on 100 for 1925-27, in the past half decade hovering around 50 per cent of the base, now stands at 74. Residential construction still gives promise of a further upward trend during the current year. It nearly doubled itself in 1935 over 1934.

PAST PRESIDENT HONORED

AS A TOKEN OF THEIR ESTEEM FOR THE MAN who had served the industry as president of the American National Live Stock Association during the four years just past, various members of the American National have presented Charles E. Collins with a gift—"the finest little wrist watch anyone ever saw," as Mr. Collins puts it. He wants his friends to know how much he appreciates their friendship, and asks that the donor's letter and his own note of thanks be published. They follow:

"STERLING, COLO., February 8, 1936.

"Mr. Charles E. Collins,
"Kit Carson, Colo.

"DEAR CHARLEY:

"Within a few days there should be sent to you from the A. F. Smith Company, Inc., of Omaha, a wrist watch. This is an expression of appreciation from some of your friends in the American National of the years of splendid service you rendered to the association—an expression of their affection for you, gained by years of work with you for the cattle industry.

"I say 'from some of your friends' for the reason that the matter was not thought of until the adjournment of the convention at Phoenix, and the only reason that the remembrance does not come from all your friends who were there is merely that there was no opportunity to approach them.

"From the small part I have had in this, I realize the great pleasure it gives these friends to do this. For the reason that it was not thought of in due season, I am not sending you a list of the contributors, since I want you to feel that it is an expression, not from the few who were approached, but from all your friends in the association.

"I hope the acceptance of this small token of their appreciation will bring you as much pleasure as the presenting of it gives your friends. With very kindest regards, I am

"Yours very truly,
"A. A. SMITH."

* * *

"KIT CARSON, COLO., February 19, 1936.

"Mr. A. A. Smith,
"Sterling, Colo.

"DEAR MR. SMITH:

"I received your letter several days ago, informing me that you and my friends in the American National Live Stock Association were having sent to me a wrist watch as a token of friendship and appreciation of my four years' service as president of the American National.

"It would be impossible to tell you how much I appreciate your good letter. Yesterday the watch arrived, and it is too fine for words to express; it is just what I have always wanted for years, or at least ever since it has become permissible for a he-man to wear a wrist watch.

"It was indeed very kind of you and my friends to remember me with this beautiful watch, and I want to assure you and all the members of the American National and many others that it was a real pleasure to have served four years as president of such an outstanding organization as the American National Live Stock Association, composed of men who are the backbone of the nation, men who fearlessly at all times stand up and fight for and defend the things that they think are for the best interest of their business and the good of the nation.

"I shall cherish this token of friendship to my dying day, and then I shall turn it over to my son, so he may know that his father had many friends among God's chosen people, the cattlemen.

"Thanking you for your letter and the memento, and with personal regards to you, and success to the American National, believe me

"Faithfully yours,
"CHAS. E. COLLINS."

Fifty-year-old Horse Dies in England

The Associated Press reports the death of a horse in Suffolk, England, that had lived to the ripe old age of fifty years and one month. He was reputed to be the oldest horse in the world.

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING

AT WASHINGTON

WITH A NEW FARM PROGRAM HAVING JUST emerged from Congress, and with taxes holding the spotlight there, the affairs of that body are of more than usual interest. We summarize below the important recent legislation:

Farm Program.—Eight Weeks after a Supreme Court decision outlawing the AAA was handed down, Congress had whipped into shape and President Roosevelt had signed the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act—the new farm program which, according to the President's statement, has three major objectives looking toward "(1) conservation of the soil itself through wise and proper use; (2) re-establishment and maintenance of farm income at fair levels so that the great gains made by agriculture in the past three years can be preserved and national recovery can continue; and (3) protection of consumers by insuring adequate supplies of food and fiber now and in the future."

The bill provides for a two-year temporary program under which the Secretary of Agriculture is given wide powers to make financial grants to farmers voluntarily complying with the soil-conservation features. A permanent program based on federal grants to states for carrying out the plans will later replace the temporary measure. It directs the expenditure of some \$500,000,000 yearly to pay farmers for shifting acres from marketable crops to grass and soil-energizing plants.

The Secretary of Agriculture in his talks before two of the regional meetings—Memphis, Tennessee, and Chicago—brought out the points that (1) 30,000,000 acres of land would be retired from intensive cultivation and devoted to legumes and similar crops; (2) cost would be limited in 1936 to \$470,000,000; and (3) payment would be made under a two-point system—one a moderate benefit for each acre, up to a maximum, planted to soil-conserving crop, and the other a larger soil-improvement payment per acre for land shifted from soil-depleting crops to soil-conserving crops, up to a specified percentage. Seventy-five cents to \$1 an acre were payments suggested for lands already in grasses and legumes, and about \$10 an acre for the 30,000,000 acres to be shifted to less profitable crops, these benefits subject to certain variances.

To make the picture complete a measure for raising the necessary revenue will now be required. Such a measure is under consideration.

Tax Bill.—Methods of rebuilding the upset budget revenues include two suggestions by the President—reimposition of processing taxes, and rewriting of the corporation income tax law.

Estimated revenue from the processing-tax scheme, under a two-year plan submitted by the agricultural department, would amount to \$442,000,000, the remainder of the needed money to come from a tax on "windfall" revenue of processors who received refunds of impounded processing taxes or failed to pay the tax, this source to bring in about \$200,000,000. The tax would apply on thirty-three farm products, classification and amounts of some of which would be as follows: cattle, 8 cents per live cwt.; sheep and lambs, 4 cents per cwt.; hogs, 30 cents per cwt.; corn, wheat, and rye, 6 cents a bushel; cotton, 1½ cents a pound; and sugar ½ cent a pound.

To make the corporation-tax plan effective, it has been advocated by the treasury that, after repeal of present cor-

poration income taxes, a graduated tax of 20 to 40 per cent be imposed on all earnings not paid out in the form of dividends. Dividends paid to stockholders would not be exempt from individual income tax. Estimated revenue under the plan is \$620,000,000.

Temporary tax needs of the treasury, the President has stated, are \$517,000,000.

Processing Taxes.—Resenting the return to packers of \$200,000,000, which was impounded in processing taxes and lost to the government by Supreme Court order, and which the Secretary of Agriculture classed "in the nature of an outright gift of public money to a small group that is not entitled to it," the New Deal early in February planned to move for recapture through a retroactive clause in the tax bill to provide revenues for the new farm measure. Meanwhile retailers, growers, and perhaps even consumers have been instituting suits for the return of taxes they claim were paid by them. Processors do not agree that they are the sole beneficiaries. To a statement attributed to Secretary Wallace that meat packers "are making a profit of eight times their average prosperity net earnings out of hog operations from release of impounded or unpaid taxes" it has been replied by Henry T. Foster, president of John Morrell and Company, that "during 1935 the pork division [of our business] was operated at a terrific loss." Wm. Whitfield Woods, president of the Institute of American Meat Packers, considered it "wrong to say that processing taxes are being given back to processors." Packers paid \$270,000,000 taxes in 1933-35, which was only a small part of the actual outlay, they bid prices higher than values justified, many went into bankruptcy, and no remuneration was given them for plant facilities thrown out of use by the program, Mr. Woods said.

Tennessee Valley Authority.—By a decision of 8 to 1 a victory was scored by the New Deal in a long-awaited Supreme Court ruling on February 17 upholding the constitutionality of the Tennessee Valley Authority, passed under guidance of the New Deal as an attempt to solve the generation-old problem of putting Muscle Shoals' gigantic war-time development to practical use. Among the major points in the decision were: (1) Congress has power to order disposal of electricity developed at the dam; (2) the government was within its legal right in building or obtaining through purchase from private companies certain transmission lines to transport power to and within market; (3) the government had authority to build the Wilson Dam, the keystone of TVA. The question of transmitting power to points beyond those needed to find adequate market for the power was not decided one way or the other. Another question unanswered is whether the government can lend money to states to encourage power projects. Supported by the decision, the New Deal has proposed carrying forward in the Pacific Northwest large developments of one of the nation's great electrical energy sources—the Columbia River.

Neutrality Bill.—The President on February 29 signed the new Neutrality Bill designed to keep the country at peace despite threatening situations abroad. The new bill extends until May 1, 1937, the existing Neutrality Act. It continues the present embargo against sale, exportation, and transportation of arms, ammunitions, and implements of warfare to belligerents, and prohibits the sale or purchase of bonds, notes, or other securities of belligerents in the United States. The bill extends the provisions of the present law with respect to every, and not only the first, participant. It exempts the American republics when at war with non-American nations, but not when allied with non-American nations in a

war against another nation. A proposal for a permanent neutrality program was rejected by the Senate.

Oleomargarine.—Margarine legislation is appearing from many quarters, and taxes of varying amounts are being sought on the product. Of especial interest to the live-stock industry is the Kleberg bill which seeks a tax of 10 cents a pound on margarine made from other than 100 per cent domestic oils. Various other bills taxing all margarine in amounts of 10 cents, 6 cents, and 5 cents a pound, measures seeking to prohibit margarine manufacture and sale, a bill which would prohibit the sale of margarine containing less than 75 per cent of animal fat, a bill prohibiting interstate shipment of adulterated margarine, and one that would impose a tax of 7½ cents a pound on fat products containing foreign oils have been introduced in the House this session.

Supreme Court Authority.—A development in debates on the farm program was the suggestion by Senator George W. Norris, of Nebraska, and later backed by a group of young senators, to restrict the powers of the Supreme Court so that it could not rule acts of Congress unconstitutional except by unanimous decision. Opposing contention declared that majority rule was fundamental to American democracy and that its change would tend toward destruction of "the very fundamentals on which our government is based." The New Deal evidently wants bills and resolutions affecting the power of the court side-tracked, as Representative Hatton W. Summers, of Texas, has expressed the opinion that such measures "are not very good things to get mixed up in a political campaign." In connection with suggested curb of the power of the Supreme Court, it is interesting to note that six members of the Supreme Court are now eligible for retirement.

Crop Loans.—The President, after vetoing the \$50,000,000 crop-loan bill on the ground that it carried no method of raising revenue to meet its cost and was not provided for in the budget, has indicated that he would sign orders providing for not more than \$30,000,000 for such purpose. On February 28 an executive order allocating \$7,000,000 to the FCA for seed loans was issued. Loans to any one borrower are limited to \$200.

Unemployment.—Estimates by work relief officials are that in February, 1936, 16,500,000 persons were dependent on federal, state, and local governments for their livelihood—a 20 per cent reduction from the figure for January, 1935; 6,000,000 more than in February, 1934; and 750,000 above the 15,800,000 dependents in the closing days of the Hoover administration. Jobs created under the New Deal's work-relief program, numbering about 3,800,000, provide for 12,500,000 people. The other 4,000,000, it is reported, are being cared for by states, counties, and municipalities. However, Harry L. Hopkins, Works Progress Administrator, has recently announced that the number of work-relief jobs will be cut to a minimum of 2,310,100 by next June 30.

The American Federation of Labor places unemployment for December last at 11,401,000. Averages for the past several years are given as follows: 1935, 12,208,000; 1934, 12,360,000; 1933, 13,723,000; 1932, 13,182,000; 1931, 8,738,000; 1930, 4,770,000; 1929, 1,864,000.

Shelter Belt.—Further expenditures by federal agencies for conservation without special approval from the White House are now prohibited. Under the regulation, the Omnibus Forestry Bill, which includes the shelter belt—the mile-wide belt of trees which was to run down the center of the country—will be knocked out.

Stock Market.—The present bullish stock market does not warrant action by the Federal Reserve Board, it was decided recently at an informal meeting of the new board; but close scrutiny will be kept on the trend of the market, so that loans by banks on securities for speculation purposes can be clamped down upon when occasion demands.

Farm Credit.—A bill introduced by Senator Robert D. Carey, of Wyoming, proposes the abolition of the position of governor of the Farm Credit Administration and would place the duties of the governor in the hands of an executive board of five appointed by the President. The bill would also revamp the federal land banks along the lines of the set-up of the Regional Federal Reserve Banks, calling for a board of directors of a land bank to consist of seven members—three district directors appointed by the administration to represent the public, three elected by Congress, and one to represent the district.

AAA Staff.—Recent reports are that more than 1,200 of almost 6,400 employees of the Agricultural Adjustment Ad-

ministration have been discharged as result of the ruling of the Supreme Court in outlawing the AAA. Furloughs have been ordered for 1,000 of the Washington employees, and others have resigned or have been transferred to other governmental departments. A reasonable number of employees are being kept on the job to start off the new farm program.

Townsend Investigation.—Democrats and Republicans are behind the move to investigate the Townsend old-age pension plan for which the House Accounts Committee has approved a \$50,000 investigating fund. The Townsend organization has "welcomed" the inquiry as "good publicity."

INDUSTRY'S AGENTS IN WASHINGTON

IN RECENT YEARS THE NEED OF REPRESENTATION in Washington, especially when Congress is in session enacting dozens of laws directly affecting the western live-stock industry, has been more fully realized than ever before. At the past several conventions of the American National Live Stock Association, which represents the nation's cattle industry, this need has been recognized, and various committees have been appointed to watch out for the cattleman's interests. During the present session the association has been unusually fortunate in its Washington representation. Secretary Mollin has been on the job there as usual, and at different times President Mitchell; Henry G. Boice, of Arizona; Ezra K. Baer, of Colorado; Hubbard Russell, of California; C. J. Abbott, of Nebraska; J. Elmer Brock, of Wyoming; Jay Taylor, of Texas; J. M. Macfarlane, of Utah; Hugh L. Hodge, Captain B. C. Mossman, and Oliver M. Lee, of New Mexico; and William B. Wright, of Nevada, all have appeared and combined to give the association a substantial and deserved standing.

The best interests of the cattlemen of the West have been championed by them in a wide field of important current problems. Among them can be listed:

Tax Bill.—Press reports indicate that, unless a last-minute change is made, a tax bill will be introduced in the House following the President's tax message and that this bill will contemplate taxes on a great variety of agricultural commodities, including cattle and sheep. The purpose of the tax is to repay the treasury for amounts appropriated to finance the soil-conservation plan, hastily put through Congress as a substitute for the invalidated Agricultural Adjustment Act. This decision made it necessary for such taxes to be levied entirely independent of the act itself, and hence gives the administration the opportunity, unsuccessfully sought a year ago, of spreading the tax burden over a greater variety of commodities regardless of whether the producers of those commodities can in any way benefit, directly or indirectly, from the soil-conservation program.

The best information available indicates that the tax contemplated on cattle is 8 cents per hundred, to be paid at point of slaughter. In effect it is a processing tax and will be levied on the processor, but probably will be called an excise tax. The tax on sheep is set at 4 cents. A tax on wool is also contemplated, amount unknown. The West is strongly opposed to such taxes.

Public Lands.—Suggestions defining more clearly the powers of the local advisory boards in their action under the Taylor Grazing Act methods for fixing grazing fees, rewriting section 15 on a more workable basis, and various other practical changes were worked out by the committee, with the full co-operation of representatives of the National Wool Growers' Association. These recommendations have been filed with the subcommittee of the Senate Public Relations Committee, and will be given consideration by it in rewriting the Taylor extension amendment, which doubtless will be passed by the House in the form submitted to it by the Department of the Interior. It increases the acreage to be included in grazing districts from 80,000,000 to 143,000,000 acres.

Capper Bill.—The perennial effort to bring the Capper bill—a source of constant irritation between producers and market interests for many years—up for consideration in the

Senate is now being pressed. The measure contains many provisions which are not workable as applied to the western country, and, generally speaking, would hamper the free marketing of live stock and lessen competition therefor. Little chance of favorable action is given it. In the House the companion bill has not been reported out of committee. Assurance has been given that hearings will be held before any action is taken. With a short session in sight, there is little likelihood of final action.

Argentine Sanitary Pact.—Senator Pittman, chairman, and other prominent members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee said there will be no consideration of this document at the present session. Conviction in live-stock circles is that when it does come up, if ever, the mustering of the necessary two-thirds majority for ratification will be impossible.

Pettengill Bill.—The House Committee on Rules has just drafted a rule to bring out the Pettengill bill, commonly known as the long-and-short-haul bill, and aimed at revising sharply the fourth section of the Interstate Commerce Act. The railroad lobby has been effective in urging passage of the bill, and very likely it will pass the House. In the Senate, however, the lid is still on in the Committee on Interstate Commerce, with little likelihood of action at this session.

Beef-Grading Bill.—Consideration was given to the drafting of a meat-grading bill by the Legislative Committee of the American National Live Stock Association in conference with representatives of other agricultural groups, particularly the National Wool Growers' Association and the American Farm Bureau Federation at Washington the last week of February. The National Live Stock Marketing Association, though not represented, has given assurance of its interest and co-operation. A tentative bill is now being drafted, and there will be no difficulty in getting it introduced; but no action is expected at this session. The National Wool Growers' Association, while showing keen interest, decided not to urge the inclusion of lamb and mutton until the matter had been discussed at its next annual meeting.

Packers and Stock-Yards Act.—The Legislative Committee conferred at length with Dr. John R. Mohler and Dr. A. W. Miller, who are in charge of the administration of this act.

Once the issue of the Capper bill is decided, it is the intention of that committee next year strongly to urge action on certain amendments to the Packers and Stock-Yards Act, which it is believed will work to the mutual advantage of producers and the central markets.

NO GAIN IN MEXICAN EXPORTS EXPECTED

THE CONSENSUS OF OPINION AMONG LEADING cattlemen in Chihuahua is that the lower rates of duty on certain classes of cattle established under the terms of the agreement recently concluded between the United States and Canada, and which are also applicable to cattle imported into the United States from Mexico, will not greatly benefit the cattle industry of Chihuahua, says Vice-Consul James C. Powell, of Chihuahua, in the Department of Commerce bulletin *Foodstuffs Round the World*.

There are no dairy cows in the district available for exportation to the United States, according to the vice-consul, and only a negligible number of calves weighing less than 175 pounds may be expected to be imported under the preferential rate and the quota (51,933 head). Calves of the weight indicated raised in this district, it was stated, are not as a matter of fact placed on this or a foreign market. Since 1930, cattlemen in the district, in order to obtain the minimum duty of 2½ cents a pound, have marketed their salable cattle in the United States before the animals attained the weight of 700 pounds. Consequently, there is at this time no large number of marketable cattle weighing 700 pounds or more which may be exported from the state during 1936. The number of salable cattle of this class now in Chihuahua is estimated at about 6 per cent of the annual quota set up under the agreement, or some 10,000 head.

CATTLE AND SHEEP TAX PROTESTED

TAXING CATTLE AND SHEEP, JUST AS HOGS were taxed under the AAA, has been suggested as one way to make the new farm program go; but the West, consistent with its opposition a year ago to a similar proposal to spread the now outlawed processing taxes, challenges the fairness of the levy of a tax on one group of agricultural producers to pay a subsidy to another such group. The following letter to the President, written over the signatures of the president of the National Wool Growers' Association and the secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, expresses the sentiment of western sheep- and cattlemen:

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 19, 1936.

The President,
The White House.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

The Washington press has contained many items during the last two or three weeks dealing with the proposed tax bill and intimating that among the products to be taxed to raise funds to pay for the substitute farm program are cattle or beef and sheep or dressed lamb and mutton. We can hardly believe this to be true. It would be tremendously unpopular in the entire western cattle- and sheep-producing areas, which would in no way benefit from the farm bill.

Our associations have not protested or interfered in any way with the passage of legislation for the relief of the farmers, even though, as in the case of the new bill, it appears to be largely a direct subsidy. However, we do most emphatically protest if the western live-stock producers, who do not and can not share in the benefits, are taxed to provide part of that relief.

This would be a double burden to us of the West, because of the fact that the forty or fifty million acres which it is contemplated to take out of crop production will neces-

Soil Conservation and Live-Stock Production

THE question is being asked by live-stock producers, as the Soil Conservation Act becomes a law, who is going to advance the money that will be spent by the government as rental benefit payments on land removed from crop production under this act.

A decision that will place an undue burden on cattle, sheep, and hogs, without some improved market outlet to live stock directly, will be opposed. Stockmen anticipate an increased, rather than a decreased, production of their product as more pasture land is made available through the retirement of crop land under the act.

...

NATIONAL LIVE STOCK MARKETING ASSOCIATION

160 North LaSalle Street

Chicago, Illinois

sarily, to a large extent, go into grass, and there is no way to restrict live-stock production on same. An amendment designed for that purpose was defeated.

We urge you, therefore, in justice to the producers of cattle and sheep and in justice to the consumers of those products (and the spread between the producer and the consumer is already a source of serious concern), not to include any tax upon any of the items specified above.

Yours respectfully,

AMERICAN NATIONAL LIVE STOCK ASSOCIATION,
F. E. MOLLIN, *Secretary*.
NATIONAL WOOL GROWERS' ASSOCIATION,
R. C. RICH, *President*.

WILD-LIFE FEDERATION FORMED

OUT OF THE NORTH AMERICAN WILD-LIFE Conference, called by the President for meeting at Washington, D. C., the first week in February, came the formation of a permanent "General Wild Life Federation." J. N. (Ding) Darling, widely known conservationist, cartoonist, and until recently chief of the Biological Survey, was named as its acting president. Fifteen hundred delegates from all parts of the country attended the conference.

The purposes of the federation will be:

"To organize all agencies, societies, clubs, and individuals which are or should be interested in the restoration and conservation of wild life into a permanent, unified agency for the purpose of securing adequate recognition of the needs and values of wild-life resources.

"To develop a comprehensive program for the advancement, restoration, and conservation of wild life.

"To present to the public such pertinent facts, discoveries, and information as may contribute to the solution of the problems involved in the restoration and conservation of wild life."

The general federation will be made up of one representative from each state, territory, and the District of Columbia, and from each of the national organizations and societies which may become federation members. The constitution provides for a nineteen-member board of directors, six selected at large at the annual meetings of the federation and the others elected by state representatives of the thirteen regions into which the United States and territories have been divided. Regions in the West are designated as: Number 10—Colorado, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico; Number 11—Washington, Oregon, and Alaska; Number 12—California and Nevada; Number 13—Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana.

NATIONAL FOREST RECEIPTS GAIN

RECEIPTS OF THE NATIONAL FORESTS DURING the first half of the present fiscal year (July 1 to December 31, 1935) showed an increase of more than \$155,000 over receipts in the same period last year. Total net receipts for this period were \$1,602,695, the Forest Service announces.

More than two-thirds of the receipts was from the sale of timber, totaling \$1,097,485. Grazing permits for sheep and goats brought \$180,460—an increase of more than \$29,000 over last year. Permit fees for grazing of cattle and horses amounted to \$179,497—a decrease of approximately \$10,000. Income from rentals of summer home sites and other special uses amounted to \$109,946.

Huge Lard Shipment to Germany

About 4,000,000 pounds of lard, reports the *National Provisioner*, was sold to Germany during an early week in February—a greater amount than all sales of American lard to Germany during the first eleven months of 1935.

THE MARKETS

LIVE-STOCK MARKET IN FEBRUARY

BY JAMES E. POOLE

CHICAGO, ILL., March 2, 1936.

CATTLE-TRADE CONDITIONS AT THE INCEPTION OF March were deplorable. Steers acquired by feeders last fall were selling at \$1 per cwt. below cost, with no reliable trading basis. That a series of erratic markets impends is consensus of trade opinion. On fairly liberal receipts prices crash; spasmodic advances on famine supplies are unreliable and easily dissipated. At the bottom of declines, ranging from \$1.50 to \$2.50 per cwt., no branch of the cattle market has shown a healthy undertone. Swine trade has shown more strength than other branches of the market, but this has been due to light slaughter. Price fluctuations from day to day are violent, and even a slight increase in supply would insure bear raiding. Live-mutton trade, after charting an independent course for several months, joined the down-grade procession, entering March at the lowest levels since last November, with a liberal supply in sight for the rest of the winter.

Cattle Market Suffers Adversities

Precedent exists for recent cattle-market events, but developments since the turn of the year have been calamitous. Take \$10 off the gross value of a steer, and feeders are in trouble. Every factor has been against the market through January and February, and at the inception of March few rays of hope could be detected on a muggy horizon. Slaughter has been heavy in a numerical sense, but weight has been lacking. In fact, a load of prime heavy bullocks has been a novelty. An unusual storm development was failure of the selling side of the trade to effect recuperation, even when a mere handful of steers materialized. The heifer deal has been an unpleasant surprise to those feeders who stocked up last fall with female calves and yearlings. Demand for cheap beef was a sustaining influence in the case of cows; but as the market became more or less glutted with low-cost warmed-up steers the better grades of beef cows ran into serious competition. Bulls were an exception to the rule, a high calf market collapsing toward the end of February, heralding the spring movement of dairy veals.

Usually a blizzard period boosts cattle prices, but nothing of that nature occurred this year. A few shipping steers gained 50 cents per cwt.; otherwise the market was in the doldrums. Low-cost steers, \$7 down, were jarred loose when feeders dumped cattle that had not been doing well on soft corn during low temperatures. Feeders who would have been

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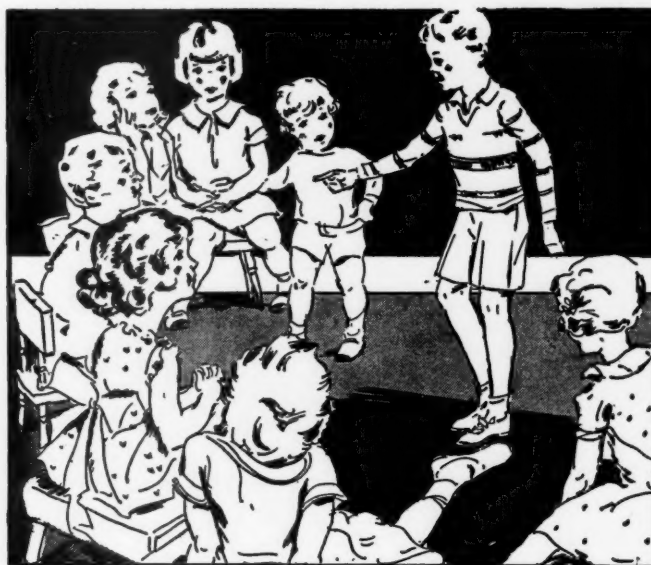
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in the market for replacement cattle—steers that had been on corn sixty to ninety days—were unable to move purchases, eliminating some possible healthy competition.

Every branch of the trade has been likened to a jig-saw puzzle with several pieces missing, all the sign-posts set up disappearing. Subsequent to the Supreme Court decision, swine trade went on a veritable jamboree, fluctuating 50 to 75 cents per cwt. within a few days and persistently keeping out of line with cattle. Live-mutton trade has charted a more consistent course, but lost \$1 per cwt. during February, going into March on soft ground.

No Logical Reason for Slump

Top prices have never been less indicative of the price basis on which the bulk of steers changed hands; the few tops made were rank excrescences. The February top at Chicago was \$13—a load of 1,040-pound Angus cattle, distinct specialties. A few outstanding cattle were taken on eastern account at \$11.50 to \$12.65; but, as depreciation chiseled quotations, \$11 recorded a notable sale, few steers sold above \$10, and the rank and file of the offering was \$7.50 to \$9.50, with few above \$9. The last week of February opened in demoralized manner, a Monday crop of 16,000 head at Chicago and 55,000 at the seven principal markets failing to make a clearance. Usually some reason may be assigned; but in this instance none was available, the market sagging of its own weight. Lugubrious reports came from dressed-beef outlets even during the storm period when slaughter was substantially reduced.

Every road is reputed to develop a turn, and eventually, if not sooner, slumps uncover a bottom. A falling market is invariably indicated by failure to recover lost ground after bear drives. When such recovery is possible a stable condition develops, and when it is possible to put prices higher than before the previous break, the turn of the road has been reached; but on this occasion even a break of \$2 per cwt. disclosed no sign of resiliency. By the beginning of March, packing-house cattle were selling largely below \$8.50 per cwt.; the upper crust of the shipping condition, anywhere from \$9.50 to \$11.50; and on the late February break these bullocks were under pressure.

Trade Slows Up Under Bad Weather

Beef trade was adversely influenced during the low-temperature period by inability of housewives to reach meat markets. In Chicago's loop, where exists a nest of pretentious markets, a shotgun with a scattering charge could have been fired without endangering life. Outlying markets closed to save running expense, and restaurant trade was reduced to low volume. Miniature runs of cattle received a frigid reception, killers holding purchases in their pens to avoid cooler congestion. The eastward movement of beef from all western markets was crippled, but nothing in the nature of meat scarcity developed.

Normal January-February Gains Fail

The heavy purchase of stockers and feeders by the Corn Belt last fall has been slowly whittled down. Heavy shipping steers, few of them exceeding 1,250 pounds, were attracted by premiums over light cattle, always in a decided majority. The February cattle supply was the poorest, from a condition standpoint, in many years, low yields being the rule. Bullocks capable of dressing 60 per cent were novelties, packing-house sheets disclosing long lists of 55 to 57 per cent weights. Cattle did fairly well on soft corn until low temperatures rendered it inedible; gains were impossible, that process reaching a standstill stage. Cattle normally make gains during January and February; on this occasion the rule was reversed.

Dumping merely warmed-up heifers aggravated the situation, thousands going to the butcher in a range of \$6.50 to \$7.50, a few over \$8.50, and only an occasional specialty above \$9. Heifers enjoyed a high market last year, prompting feeders to attempt repetition; but the market slipped from under them so rapidly that they were bewildered. The cow phase of the trade, responding to continued demand for "something cheap," maintained a fairly healthy posture, especially the cheaper grades selling in the \$4 to \$5.75 range. Heifers bore the brunt of the decline in female cattle, which reflected demoralization in Chicago beef trade. Even the coterie of smaller killers backed away.

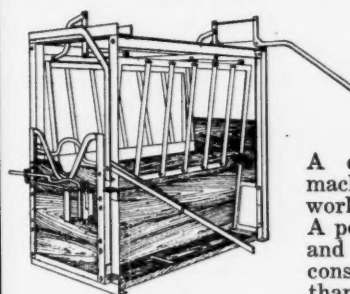
Violent Fluctuations Mark Hog Market

Hogs were always out of line with cattle, reacting after the spurt subsequent to eliminating the processing tax, then attaining new high levels when blizzards interrupted the highway and rail movement. At Chicago average cost of droves flirted with \$11, the top going to \$11.20 at that stage, but the moment traffic was resumed the market cracked 75 cents per cwt. Packers, apprehensive of heavy receipts of storm-bound hogs, permitted prices to drop by the time-honored method of sitting on the benches, and had it not been for healthy eastern demand on fresh meat account the \$10 hog would have taken a nose-dive at that juncture. As it was, the heavy butcher delegation sold under \$10, big hogs flirting with \$9.50 before the end of February.

Unless cattle prices recover, it is evident that the hog market has acquired a top-heavy position. As in the case of cattle, swine did not respond to "phony" feed, sending inferior grades into the market hopper, which was required to digest thousands of immature shoats weighing 180 pounds down. Heavy butchers were always the underdogs of the market during a period when weight is rarely handicapped. Packers were able to get few hogs at interior concentration points during the subzero season, but consistently pursued the policy of buying no more than they needed from day to day to take care of fresh-meat trade. When \$7.50 to \$9.50 bought a large percentage of the fed-steer crop, a spread of \$10.25 to \$10.50 bought the bulk of hogs—obviously an out-of-line condition.

Lambs Show Signs of Stability

When fed lambs went to \$10.75 to \$11, confidence in a still higher market was heralded; but a slump of \$1 per cwt. or more put the bulk at \$9.75 to \$10, and even on that basis the market lacked stamina. However, compared with other branches of the trade it made a show of stability, \$10.25 to \$10.50 taking a large percentage of the February crop. High



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pork prompted chain stores to resort to "leader" sales of lamb. Otherwise trade conditions would have been even worse.

Yearling lambs at \$9.25 to \$9.75, a few reaching \$10, sold to better advantage than lambs, as killers needed weight and yearling product invariably goes to consumers in lamb guise. Scarcity of sheep made a healthy ewe market, the pick of that crop selling at \$5 to \$5.35, with the low-grade end tapering off to \$4. Low-grade lambs sold well, feeders taking anything fit to feed, leaving poor picking for shearers, always on the alert for an opportunity to acquire wool.

Trade Suffering from Deficient Consumption

Most of the vicissitude encountered by the live-stock trade during the past two months may be directly traced to deficient consumption. As usual, declining prices on the hoof were not reflected in cost of product to the ultimate consumer. Expectancy that expenditures of public money on a vast scale would create purchasing power did not reach the fruition stage, and, as an unenumerated, but formidable, army of unemployed was unable to spend money for meat, feeders were penalized by a kick-back that was felt wherever live stock is fed.

Few Canadian Shipments Pay Out

Canada's contribution was small, despite a corresponding slump in cattle prices at Dominion markets. A few importations of heavy cattle paid out; others did not net sufficient money to warrant a risky trip to this market, although the property sold right in line with domestic product.

Future Course of Market Uncertain

At this writing the entire cattle-feeding industry is demoralized, using that term advisedly, as the great bulk of the cattle are not paying initial cost, plus subsequent expense. Hog-growers have had no reason for complaint since their property was relieved of the processing tax, part of which has gone into their pockets, the rest reducing pork cost to consumers. Lamb-feeders, although disappointed with the outcome, have fared better than cattlemen.

Amidst current confusion, speculation as to what is ahead would be futile. Cattle prices may reach a level where liquidation will be automatically checked; in fact, shipping back from the market by way of protest has been resorted to. The rise of grass is at hand, heavy winter precipitation assuring abundant pasture, and, as much of the 1935 corn crop contains excessive moisture, feeding is the only possible method of disposal.

Fall Litters Make Good Record

The old hog crop, farrowed during the first half of 1935, is rapidly disappearing, followed by fall litters. These light hogs have made an excellent market record, consequently

they have been cut loose in a manner that reflects lack of confidence in the immediate future. So persistent has this liquidation been that killers have had access to a surplus of unfinished 160- to 180-pound shoats, while finished 180- to 220-pounders have been scarce.

Winter Lamb Marketing Orderly

Lamb feeders are marketing their winter crop in orderly fashion. The product has been cleared without difficulty, although at gradually declining prices, suggesting that, in a lesser degree, this product has been involved in the debacle.

LIVE STOCK AT STOCK-YARDS

APPENDED ARE TABLES SHOWING RECEIPTS, shipments, and federally inspected slaughter of live stock at sixty-two markets for the month of January, 1936, as compared with January, 1935, and January averages for the five years 1931-35:

RECEIPTS

	January		Five-Year Averages 1931-35
	1936	1935	
Cattle*	1,254,377	1,307,592†	1,072,095
Calves	530,405	581,301†	477,923
Hogs	2,523,599	2,421,815	3,784,896
Sheep	1,861,769	1,748,769	2,004,183

TOTAL SHIPMENTS†

	January		Five-Year Averages 1931-35
	1936	1935	
Cattle*	450,145	473,281	401,490
Calves	172,936	176,019	147,808
Hogs	745,367	763,770	1,242,281
Sheep	731,719	719,608	840,141

STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS

	January		Five-Year Averages 1931-35
	1936	1935	
Cattle*	160,055	169,120	144,092
Calves	36,130	29,398	29,594
Hogs	38,462	30,105	36,144
Sheep	94,183	151,243	135,722

SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION

	January		Five-Year Averages 1931-35
	1936	1935	
Cattle*	906,189	814,120
Calves	464,831	476,435
Hogs	3,427,799	3,047,533
Sheep	1,539,735	1,344,727

*Exclusive of calves.


†Includes stockers and feeders.

‡Includes animals purchased for Federal Surplus Relief Corporation.

HIDE TRADE STABLE

J. E. P.

HIDE TRADE SHOWS EXTERNAL INDICATIONS OF stability. All manufacturing interests are in the leather market at intervals, buyers operating on a hand-to-mouth basis. At times the hide market folds up, creating an impression that it has gone out of business; but a lapse of two or three days develops volume convincingly to the contrary. The big-packer market shows a steady range of 11½ to 15 cents for the various grades of steers, heavy natives and butt



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brands getting the latter figure, extra lights, 11½ cents, with the major part of current take-off getting 13 to 14½ cents.

A bullish feature is refusal of current bids for government hides—a legacy of the drought period. This disposition to hold has spread out distribution and exerted a stabilizing influence.

Cow hides, packer take-off, sell at 10¼ to 11 cents. Bulk of small packer hides move at a range of 9½ to 10½ cents. Country hides are no longer a supply factor, selling in a 7- to 9½-cent range.

Leather markets are sufficiently active to prevent accumulations. Shoe factories are doing a normal volume of business, demand centering on middle-cost footwear. Automobile demand is less urgent, as the 1935 boom in motor-car sales has subsided.

No decided change in hide prices is expected in trade circles.

HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

BELOW IS A SUMMARY OF STORAGE HOLDINGS of frozen and cured meats, lard, poultry, creamery butter, and eggs on February 1, 1936, as compared with February 1, 1935, and average holdings on that date for the past five years (in pounds except as otherwise noted):

Commodity	Feb. 1, 1936	Feb. 1, 1935	Five-Year Average
Frozen beef.....	81,384,000	102,494,000	53,850,000
Cured beef*.....	21,947,000	24,603,000	18,805,000
Lamb and mutton.....	2,821,000	3,819,000	3,212,000
Frozen pork.....	101,951,000	224,180,000	189,406,000
Dry salt pork*.....	79,961,000	69,358,000	94,827,000
Pickled pork*.....	253,638,000	374,446,000	390,544,000
Miscellaneous.....	79,334,000	109,715,000	78,277,000
Total meats.....	621,036,000	903,615,000	828,921,000
Lard.....	75,771,000	112,497,000	95,030,000
Frozen poultry.....	104,024,000	122,285,000	112,032,000
Creamery butter.....	21,538,000	18,907,000	36,407,000
Eggs (case equiv.).....	1,872,000	1,545,000	2,010,000

*Cured or in process of cure.

COMPARATIVE LIVE-STOCK PRICES

BELOW ARE FIGURES SHOWING PRICES ON THE principal classes and grades of live stock at Chicago on March 2, 1936, compared with February 3, 1936, and March 1, 1935, (per 100 pounds):

SLAUGHTER STEERS:	Mar. 2, 1936	Feb. 3, 1936	Mar. 1, 1935
Choice (1,300 to 1,500 lbs.).....	\$10.50-11.50	\$11.75-13.25	\$13.00-13.90
Good	8.50-10.75	9.00-12.00	10.00-13.25
Choice (900 to 1,100 lbs.).....	9.75-11.25	11.00-13.00	12.50-13.75
Good	8.25-10.50	8.75-11.75	9.50-13.00
Medium (900 lbs. up).....	7.00- 8.50	7.25- 9.00	8.25-10.25
FED YEARLING STEERS:			
Good to Choice	7.50-10.50	8.25-12.25	9.50-13.00
HEIFERS:			
Good to Choice	7.00- 8.75	7.25-11.00	9.25-12.00
COWS:			
Good	5.75- 6.50	5.75- 6.75	6.50- 9.25
CALVES:			
Good to Choice	6.50- 9.00	7.00-10.00	7.00-10.50
FEEDER AND STOCKER STEERS:			
Good to Choice	6.75- 7.75	7.00- 8.25	6.25- 9.00
Common to Medium	5.25- 6.75	5.50- 7.50	5.00- 6.25
HOGS:			
Medium Weights (200 to 250 lbs.)....	10.00-10.60	9.80-10.50	9.35- 9.55
LAMBS:			
Good to Choice.....	9.00-10.00	9.75-10.75	8.50- 9.25
EWES:			
Good to Choice	4.35- 5.60	3.85- 4.75	4.00- 5.50

WHOLESALE MEAT PRICES

WHOLESALE PRICES ON WESTERN DRESSED meats at Chicago on March 2, 1936, compared with February 3, 1936, and March 1, 1935, were as below (per 100 pounds):

FRESH BEEF AND VEAL

STEERS (700 lbs. up):	Mar. 2, 1936	Feb. 3, 1936	Mar. 1, 1935
Choice	\$14.00-15.50	\$15.50-17.50	\$18.50-19.50
Good	11.50-14.00	13.00-15.50	17.00-18.00
STEERS (50 to 700 lbs.):			
Choice	12.50-14.50	14.50-17.00	17.50-19.00
Good	11.00-12.50	12.00-15.00	15.50-18.00
YEARLING STEER:			
Choice	12.50-14.00	14.50-16.50	17.00-18.00
Good	11.00-12.50	12.00-14.50	15.50-17.00
COW:			
Good	10.00-10.50	10.50-11.50	12.00-13.00
VEAL:			
Choice	13.00-14.00	16.50-17.50	14.50-15.50
Good	12.00-13.00	15.50-16.50	13.50-14.50

FRESH LAMB AND MUTTON

LAMB (45 lbs. down):			
Choice	\$15.00-16.50	\$16.50-17.50	\$17.50-18.00
Good	14.50-15.50	16.00-16.50	16.00-17.00
MUTTON:			
Good	8.00- 9.00	8.00- 9.00	10.00-11.00

FRESH PORK CUTS

LOINS:			
8-12-lb. average	\$17.00-19.00	\$16.50-18.00	\$20.00-21.00

MARKET GOSSIP

J. E. P.

ONE OF THE CHARMING THINGS SAID ABOUT THE human is that its breast is always bulging with hope. This fact imparts to life on this mundane sphere continuing imbecility, incidentally saving it from boredom. During the crash in live-stock values, the man who resolves never to feed another steer has been distinctly audible; but he will forget all about it toward the rise of grass, when agrarian thoughts invariably turn to replacement. Amidst the welter of dissatisfaction agitating ambient market atmosphere recently, the man cogitating on restocking has been distinctly

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heard. He laments the fact that cattle have not declined at least another dollar, as he is in the market for a few loads to put into the feed-lot, thereby demonstrating that what is poison to one is meat for another.

Full Quota from Canada Unlikely

Canada has not been responsible for any of the vicissitude cattle-feeders have recently encountered. At the outset, shippers in the northern Dominion took chances on trial shipments; but as prices on their market were marked up, obviously to arrest a bovine exodus, they desisted, and, as our prices slumped, custom-house inspectors found their jobs were sinecures. The only Canadian shipment of considerable volume to reach Chicago during February was chaperoned by the owner, R. L. Macmillan, of Calgary, his steers selling at \$9.50 to \$10; heifers, \$8.10—and he was satisfied. Macmillan estimates that western Canada will have around 40,000 heavy steers to export during the March-to-May period, crediting Ontario with 50,000 or thereabouts; "but prices have worked to such low levels at Chicago that at least some of the excess may be diverted across the Atlantic," he admonished. A few days later, Montreal announced the arrival of an English buyer, inquiry for space on St. Lawrence River boats developing coincidentally. In any event, Canada does not expect to fill the 155,000 quota provided by the reciprocity treaty.

Processing-Tax Claimants Still Audible

Wise-cracking concerning the Supreme Court's AAA decision has been voluminous. An irate female customer told her butcher that as consumers had paid the tax she had decided to demand return of her money. Swine-growers have sought legal assistance, contending that the tax was deducted from the price paid for their hogs, and retailers, contending that they had been the actual victims of the impost, actually started suits in Chicago courts. Mr. Wallace still insists that returning impounded taxes was "the greatest steal in history," in which opinion the great majority of pork consumers coincide, on the theory that they were the victims.

Posthumous Processing Taxes

Evidently the processing tax in its original guise has landed in limbo, but an ingenious revival scheme is to put an excise tax on all foods, the proceeds to be devoted to paying bounties for land taken out of cultivation and, in the opinion of the erudite Secretary of Agriculture—meaning the incumbent of that office—needing official reclamation. Such a tax would at least remedy a glaring error in the initial effort to redeem agriculture by an impost on pork alone, as the new device would put everything agrarian, including beef, pork, and ovine product, on the tax rolls. Obviously \$500,000,000 annually cannot be collected from income-tax payers, so that the excise scheme has a practical appearance, provided food consumers do not squawk.

Nineteen-Pig Litters

Relieved of the tax and stimulated by recent hog prices, the whole country is enthusiastic over pork production, the matronly sow participating. The president of the Whiteside County (Illinois) Farm Bureau boastfully announces a litter of nineteen pigs—a somewhat heretical position for an officer in the organization mainly responsible for branding prolific porcine females public enemies. Late spring farrowing advices are that litters are both numerous and large, pigs getting hospital care on arrival. To quote an Iowa man: "We have renovated our parlors for pig reception. If the kids kick, they can play in the barn."

Notable is pork production expansion all over the Southland. Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi, and the Carolinas are getting into the game at a rate that prompts packers to renovate obsolete plants, if not construct others. Swine receipts at such markets as Cincinnati, St. Louis, Nashville, and Louisville loom up ominously on stock-yard blackboards, and such lesser points as Moultrie, Georgia; Montgomery, Alabama; and Springfield, Missouri, are getting into hog slaughter rapidly. One of the outcomes of the AAA attempt to control or regulate pork production has been definite, if not uncontrollable, expansion, duplicating the potato debacle.

Expansion in the Offing

Assuming that the erosion plan is practicable, an immense acreage will be made available for meat and dairy expansion effort. Beef-raisers have less cause for apprehension than dairymen, as handling a few cows is nothing but an easy daily chore. Hogs and sheep may also be adapted to reclaimed areas, especially in the favorable climate of the Cotton Belt, and in any distribution of bounty money the South will naturally secure the major portion, as that is the eroded section. However, \$500,000,000 will not go far, even if the new act is constitutional and new taxation sources may be successfully and perennially tapped. Recalcitrancy, even in agrarian circles, is decidedly in evidence. The average man resents restraint, a congenital instinct.

Retail Prices Stay Put

Just what has happened in meat-distribution circles is a puzzle. For one thing, when live-stock prices go down a well-greased set of skids, delay in attuning distribution to the new scale of values is inevitable. Certain fixed charges such as labor and rent never vary, restaurants and hotels impose practically the same charges year in and out, increases when wholesale cost of meats is marked up lingering long after the cause has been removed. At a women's gathering in Chicago recently, the subject of inflexibility of meat prices was resentfully discussed, one participant remarking: "I listen regularly to radio live-stock market reports, in which the word 'lower' is usually overworked, but never do I detect these price trends in my meat bill." It is a vexed subject, threadbare from long controversy, with no solution possible.

Recent Decline Inexplicable

Processors buy live stock when the resultant product can be moved with reasonable celerity and a profit margin. When outlet channels clog, they desist, kicking back in the live-stock market. Volumes have been written concerning manipulation in the latter sphere, more will be indited; and it is possible that gentlemen's agreements have been made during brief intervals for partial price control. However, such manipulation, admitting that it exists, could not possibly influence major price movements in either direction.

Herd Bulls	Range Bulls
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Just why fat cattle went to \$16 per cwt. last year, promptly declining \$3 per cwt. is no more susceptible of logical explanation than the general decline of \$2.50 per cwt. or more during January and February. Conflicting evidence comes from processing circles, where one authority will voice an opinion diametrically opposed to that of another, equally authentic.

Ballyhooed into Distress

That meat prices, generally, worked to levels that either taxed consumer capacity to pay or generated sales-resistant psychology will not be disputed. The trade was ballyhooed into distress. Editorialists, reportorial descendants of Ananias and more potent than the cartoonists, turned their batteries on all sources of animal food supply from primary producers to the last link in the chain of distribution. Constant reiteration of the "six million pigs" incident aroused public hostility, and even when the hog tax was discontinued the fact that meat had been taxed revived resentment. And, in the final analysis, these agitations kick right back to producers, the extreme limit of convulsion.

Admittedly, meat consumption on a per capita basis has gradually declined. During the period of short production, due to the drought mainly, this was less in evidence; but agitation both to eliminate meat from the individual dietary and curtailment is persistent. Each irregularly recurring period of high prices injects energy into anti-meat propaganda. Industrial depression invariably influences meat trade adversely. A hue and cry about excessive prices is a favorite bird-dog with the agitators.

Imports Up 267 Per Cent

Imports of all meats during 1935 exceeded 1934 volume 267 per cent. On a percentage basis, the figures are somewhat alarming, owing to disparity between the two years. The following table is explanatory:

	1935	1934	Percentage of Increase
Beef (pounds)	10,043,218	964,087	942
Pork (pounds)	10,488,690	1,580,988	563
Other Meat (pounds)	774,945	278,538	178
Poultry (pounds)	551,833	471,579	17
Canned Meat (pounds)	76,665,993	46,777,875	63
Gelatin (pounds)	1,869,108	1,249,129	49
Beef and Mutton Tallow (pounds) ..	245,850,922	42,813,299	474
Totals	346,244,709	94,135,095	267
Live Cattle (head)	377,689	65,055	480
Live Hogs (pounds)	3,414,317	7,591	44,878
Sheep (head)	6,953	1,878	365

The Noes Have It

A cattleman who attended the recent meeting at Salt Lake City said it reminded him of an incident in the career of the elder G. F. Swift, who presided at a meeting of company executives many years ago at which a proposition to embark on the sphere of coal mining was considered. "You all know what you are here for," admonished Swift in his high falsetto voice, "and have probably decided how you intend to vote. The proposition is that this company mine its own coal. All in favor say aye." The vote was in the affirmative, unanimously, whereupon the packer laconically announced: "I vote no, and the noes have it."

Last Summer's Menu Card Still in Use

"What meat trade needs in the worst way is a general scaling down of restaurant meat charges," asserted a packer salesman. "Menu cards were marked up last summer and prices are still at the peak. Wholesale cost of meat has been scaled down to new live-stock prices, but the multitude of consumers that live on restaurant fare have never had an

opportunity to know anything about it. Retail market prices are usually adjusted in course of time, a process under way now, but restaurant people stick to the same schedule perennially."

In the Process of "Adjustment"

Live-stock prices are going through a process of "adjustment"—a weasel word that may be variously construed. Subsequent to the recent bank moratorium, a Chicago banker, admitting suspension of payment to a group of anxious depositors, tried to reassure them with: "We have closed for adjustment." That bank is still closed, the adjustment promising to continue indefinitely. "Adjustment" should be placed in the category of weasel words.

"Big Type" Hogs Out

Whatever future hog-market developments may be, it is evident that the trade can and will use few so-called "butcher weights"—barrows weighing 300 to 400 pounds—as distributive trade no longer requires the product they furnish. Swine trade has definitely gone on a fresh-meat basis, and will stay there. The much advertised "big type" hog has no place in the scheme of meat production or distribution. Maximum litters, marketed at early maturity, is obviously the best production policy.

WOOL PROSPECTS BULLISH

J. E. P.

WOOL MARKETS SHOW NO SIGN OF WEAKENING, although volume has diminished. Scarcity is the factor of major importance, eastern lofts being all but bare. The trade is impatiently awaiting replenishment, which will be impossible until the new clip is definitely off the sheep's back. April will mark the anniversary of development of the market from a depression to a relatively prosperous basis—a rise that discredited practically all the forecasting at that time available.

But, if prices have held on a reduced volume of business, an opinion is generating that further improvement is improbable. On the bull side of the argument is reduction of clothing stocks, for which a subzero winter has been largely responsible, and a heavy movement of both woolen and worsted fabrics. The New York Wool Top Exchange reports that, despite higher prices for raw material, mills are operating at a high rate. Some mills were sold up several weeks ahead of production late in February and were not in shape to operate for any length of time without visiting the wool market. From retail sources come reports of heavy winter sales of wool underwear, socks, sweaters, and other cold-weather attire. Overcoatings and ski-suitings also sold in large volume.

Late in February the government bought 117,000,000 yards of textiles at a cost of \$12,450,000 for the WPA. This cloth is to be used in seamstress projects in all parts of the United States. Textile manufacturers have protested that this excursion will throw hundreds of women out of employment.

Haley-Smith Company

Breeders of Registered Herefords

Bulls for Sale at All Times

STERLING, COLORADO

In the West little contracting has been done, although prices are firm and against the buyer. Present indications are that contracting will be retarded by prices and indisposition to sell wool still on the sheep's back. In Nevada 26½ cents bought the Jenkins and Taylor clips; in Texas a few clips have been taken at 31 and 31¼ cents. Recent purchases in Wyoming of fine and fine medium clips are reported at 26 and 27 cents.

Increasing imports of foreign wools reflect scarcity of domestic product. Large quantities of medium-to-low grades of such wools have been withdrawn from bond and American buyers have been keen competitors in antipodean markets. In Boston alone, withdrawals of foreign wool from bond have averaged 1,000,000 pounds weekly.

In considering the future wool market, European conditions must not be ignored. That continent is practically an armed camp, Germany and Russia having nearly 2,000,000 men under arms, Italy is maintaining a large army in the field, and both England and France are making extensive war preparations; far-eastern news is equally suggestive of active belligerency—and modern warfare makes inroads in the world's wool stocks.

Wool prices are more likely to advance than react. Every phase of the prospect is bullish.

COMMERCE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS OF LIVE STOCK, MEAT products, animal and vegetable oils and fats, hides and skins, wool, and grain from and into the United States for the calendar year 1935, as compared with 1934, are given below as reported by the Department of Commerce:

LIVE ANIMALS (Numbers)			
EXPORTS			
Cattle	1935	1934	
Hogs	3,348	15,655	
Sheep and goats	303	3,052	
Horses	13,420	18,302	
Mules, asses, and burros	3,798	1,900	
Totals	2,593	3,701	
Totals	23,372	42,610	
IMPORTS			
Cattle	378,124	64,539	
Sheep and goats	8,953	1,496	
Horses	6,616	3,899	
Totals	391,693	69,934	
Hogs (pounds)	3,414,317	1,601	
MEAT PRODUCTS (Pounds)			
EXPORTS			
Beef and veal, fresh	1935	1934	
Beef and veal, pickled	4,837,891	5,470,986	
Horse meat	5,661,530	13,940,031	
Mutton and lamb	1,331,350	2,007,742	
Pork, fresh	592,343	593,586	
Pork, pickled	10,208,198	36,757,287	
Bacon	8,275,700	18,385,024	
Cumberland and Wiltshire sides	5,867,907	18,182,025	
Hams and shoulders	443,398	438,580	
Poultry and game, fresh	55,379,763	65,103,993	
Sausage	1,718,111	2,299,644	
Canned meats	1,530,205	2,450,398	
Totals	12,563,973	16,377,812	
Total meat products	155,346,653	251,408,759	
IMPORTS			
Beef, fresh	8,584,114	140,474	
Veal, fresh	172,598	3,204	
Pork, fresh	3,922,609	127,746	
Mutton, fresh	22,281	577	
Lamb, fresh	25,002	4,461	
Other fresh meats	774,945	278,338	
Poultry, fresh	414,874	471,379	
Poultry, prepared	302,113	298,826	
Canned meats	76,653,242	46,777,875	
Beef and veal, cured	1,472,078	823,613	
Hams and bacon	5,297,335	968,869	
Pork, pickled	1,273,915	484,373	
Other prepared meats	354	
Total meat products	115,059,124	65,051,379	

WOOLS (Pounds)			
EXPORTS			
Wool and mohair, unmanufactured	1935	1934	
	19,555	119,305	

IMPORTS			
Wool and mohair, unmanufactured	202,732,658	109,395,881	

EDIBLE ANIMAL OILS AND FATS (Pounds)			
EXPORTS			
Lard	1935	1934	
Neutral lard	96,354,609	431,237,367	
Oleo Oil	1,004,827	3,654,323	
	9,251,405	20,713,216	
Total animal oils and fats	111,914,091	473,554,594	

IMPORTS			
Edible animal oils and fats	18,895,241	1,723,261	

VEGETABLE OILS AND FATS (Pounds)			
EXPORTS			
Coconut oil	1935	1934	
Cottonseed oil	1,079,778	1,256,107	
Soybean oil	3,655,133	6,186,831	
Sesame seed	4,111,188	2,040,127	
Corn oil	833,101	1,314,066	
Cocoa butter	4,989,779	4,946,341	
Cooking fats	1,219,354	2,180,565	
Other oils and fats	686,891	845,343	
Totals	16,575,224	18,169,380	

IMPORTS			
Copra	454,134,203	399,233,969	
Coconut oil	353,396,002	314,802,433	
Linseed oil	2,232,451	2,766,152	
Sesame seed	147,470,944	22,326,538	
Palm kernels	50,072,548	8,509,404	
Palm-kernel oil	58,570,453	12,752,147	
Palm oil	296,502,422	155,530,876	
Soybean oil	14,248,574	2,828,523	
Sunflower-seed oil	37,051,732	9,823,603	
Corn oil	25,746,000	10,681,439	
Peanut oil	80,723,225	2,722,383	
Cottonseed oil	166,687,367	

HIDES AND SKINS (Pounds)			
EXPORTS			
Cattle hides	1935	1934	
Calf and kip skins	22,639,092	35,273,281	
Sheep and goat skins	10,920,015	10,874,134	
Others	2,397,057	1,807,063	
	6,353,495	4,123,578	
Totals	42,309,659	52,078,056	

IMPORTS			
Cattle hides	4,809,497	66,558,521	
Buffalo hides	725,935	636,758	
Indian water-buffalo hides	1,152,612	887,739	
Kip skins	6,582,557	6,385,599	
Calf skins	16,139,644	11,467,744	
Horse, colt, and ass hides	12,158,847	5,964,522	
Sheep and lamb skins	32,617,437	35,284,709	
Goat and kid skins	78,225,928	64,874,155	
Kangaroo skins	1,212,737	541,535	
Deer and elk skins	2,482,201	2,160,506	
Reptile skins	450,516	1,557,675	
Others	6,157,473	4,450,869	
Totals	303,475,633	200,770,332	

GRAIN (Bushels)			
EXPORTS			
Barley	1935	1934	
Buckwheat	7,506,822	5,446,944	
Corn	33,834	58,239	
Oats	177,382	2,987,419	
Rye	568,083	141,335	
Wheat	5,356	5,647	
Totals	232,965	16,968,589	
Wheat flour (barrels)	8,524,442	25,608,173	
	3,357,326	4,163,325	

IMPORTS			
Barley	4,830,678	
Corn	43,242,296	2,950,256	
Oats	10,106,903	5,580,407	
Rye	9,641,523	
Wheat flour (barrels)	2,611,069	203,235	

"I am surely satisfied with the advertisement. Keep it running."—J. D. FREEMAN, San Antonio, Tex.

LIVE-STOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

THE LIVE-STOCK AND MEAT TRADE DURING FEBRUARY was featured by lower prices for most meats, according to a review of the situation issued by the Institute of American Meat Packers. As a result of lower wholesale prices, prices of live stock as a whole declined during February.

Supplies of dressed beef continued relatively large during February, and, with no concomitant increase in consumer purchasing power, the large supply moved into consumption at lower prices. Receipts of cattle were greater than in the same month last year, and, with demand for beef relatively unsatisfactory, prices of all grades naturally declined.

In keeping with the weakness in the market for other dressed meats, wholesale prices of lamb declined during February. Receipts of sheep and lambs were a little larger than in February last year. Prices of lambs declined, but prices of sheep showed some improvement.

Marketings of hogs were disrupted during the month by the weather. Receipts for the month as a whole were somewhat smaller than last year. The quality of hogs marketed in February continued fairly good, although some were rather poorly finished. Prices varied during the month, and at the close were about the same as at the opening on butcher hogs and slightly under a month ago on packing sows.

TWO-CENTS-A-MILE RAIL RATE ORDERED

PASSENGER RATES OF 2 CENTS A MILE IN coaches and 3 cents in Pullmans were recently ordered by the Interstate Commerce Commission upon the finding that the standard rates of 3.6 cents and the Pullman surcharge were unreasonable.

The 2-cent fare has been in effect as a voluntary experiment in various southern and western railroads for some time, and has had the effect of recouping much of the passenger business that has been lost to the railroads during the past decade. Practically all these carriers urged the commission to put the 2-cent fare on a permanent basis. Most of the eastern railroads, however, asked that their present charge of 3.6 cents a mile be continued.

A VISITOR EXPRESSES THANKS

JOE M. MARKS, OF JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH Africa, who has been touring Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona, has asked THE PRODUCER to extend his thanks to the many kind people who made his trip so valuable and interesting to whom he has not written personally.

Mr. Marks sailed for South Africa on February 26. His tour in this country was made for the purpose of gaining an insight into ranching methods here which might be applicable to conditions in South Africa.

FEEDSTUFFS

COTTONSEED CAKE AND MEAL ON MARCH 9 WAS quoted at \$23 a ton, f. o. b. Texas points. Hay prices at Omaha on March 5 were as follows: alfalfa—choice leafy, \$15; No. 1, \$13 to \$14; standard leafy, \$12 to \$12.50; standard, \$11.50 to \$12; No. 2, \$10 to \$11; No. 3, \$9; upland prairie—No. 1, \$10.50; No. 2, \$9.50; No. 3, \$8.50; midland prairie—No. 1, \$10; No. 2, \$8.50 to \$9; mixed hay—No. 1, \$10.50; No. 2, \$9.50; No. 3, \$8.50.

FOREIGN

ENGLISH LIVE-STOCK LETTER

BY JOSEPH RAYMOND

[Special Correspondence to The Producer]

LONDON, February 15, 1936.

THE OPENING OF THE PEDIGREE CATTLE SALES has seen a keen demand for bulls from the best beef herds. At the big annual sale at Perth of Aberdeen-Angus stock bulls, for instance, the reserve male champion, Marshall & Mitchell's "Edmonton of Bleaton," had an opening bid of \$420, and was finally sold for \$5,000 to Walker Biggar, who acted on behalf of Oakleigh Thorne, of Briarcliffe Farm, Duchess County, New York.

Pedigree breeders regard this indication of interest in the British market as a very gratifying sign for future exports. The supreme champion at the sale, Lord Rosebery's "Bemaster of Dalmeny," sold for \$3,000 to another Scottish breeder. Second highest price, \$4,000, was paid by Lord Forteviot for another bull from the herd of Marshall & Mitchell. Lord Forteviot was the runner-up in the bidding for the bull bought to go to the United States.

Over the first two days of the sale, the average for 442 head was \$240, as compared with \$210 last year, and the average for 135 bulls sold on the third day was \$315, as compared with \$240 last year. Bulls and heifers were purchased for export to the United States, Australia, Argentina, Rhodesia, New Zealand, and the Irish Free State.

The interest shown in this sale confirmed the reports of all the beef-breed societies as to a record number of inquiries having been received since the new year from overseas.

Unfortunately, the hopeful position in regard to pedigree breeding stock does not extend to fat and store cattle. While the grading qualification for the cattle subsidy remains as low as 54 per cent, dressed carcass weight, the average farmer will not trouble to finish off his stores. Quite 60 per cent of the so-called fat cattle sent to the markets can only be described as half-finished stores, and in consequence the average quotations for fat cattle continue to decline at all

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QUANAH, TEXAS

centers. An analysis of the market returns shows that the butchers are prepared to pay \$10.50 per live cwt. for good sorts; but these are few and far between, and the average quotation is about \$8.75 per cwt. for fat steers and maiden heifers, \$5.85 per live cwt. for fat bulls and cows, and 19 cents a pound for veal calves at all centers. Trade as a whole lacks animation in England, although in the south there has been a rise of 12½ to 25 cents per live cwt. in the values of the best fat stock, probably due to an increased demand for home-killed beef, brought about by the recent strike at Smithfield.

Only the best-quality fat cattle are in demand in Scotland, where supplies are plentiful, and \$9.50 per live cwt. is the average price. Heavier supplies are also reported in Wales, with prices easing to \$9 per live cwt. for the best, while quality and values are well down in Ireland.

The demand for store stock shows a considerable improvement since my last report, with values somewhat higher.

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JOHN E. PAINTER & SONS

BOGGEN, COLORADO

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Will Market

**6,000
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The Gila County Cattle Growers' Association maintains listings of feeder cattle for sale by cattlemen in Gila County, Arizona. Write or wire for complete information.

**Gila County Cattle
Growers' Association**

P. O. Box 743

Globe, Arizona

Up to \$55 a head is the average quotation for two-year-old store steers, yearlings averaging \$36 a head, and rearing calves \$10.50. Irish shipments are averaging 7,500 head a week. Only the best dairy cows are wanted at all centers—a situation which usually prevails when large numbers of second- and third-grade fat cattle are available.

The strike of 12,000 workers at Smithfield and the Metropolitan Cattle Market and Abattoir at Islington interrupted to some degree London's supply of imported meat and had a beneficial effect upon the prices of home-killed beef in certain areas. About 75 per cent of the meat sold at Smithfield has been imported, and the total trade at this, the greatest market of its kind in the world, is approximately \$150,000,000 a year and in quantity amounts to about 10,000 tons a week. The home-produced meat, which is normally killed at Islington and sold at Smithfield, was diverted to privately owned slaughter-houses (there are more than 300 in and around London) and forwarded to the butchers' shops either direct or by way of the outer London markets. A considerable quantity of meat was bought by butcher-dealers at markets in the home counties, killed locally and sent direct to multiple shops and hotels. Arrangements, necessarily imperfect, were made for taking meat direct from the cold stores and the docks to suburban shops—mostly carriers' garages—from whence it was collected by the butchers. Nevertheless, there remained a huge gap to be filled by English supplies, and a direct result of the strike was an increase in the consumption of home-produced meat and improved prices for the best grades of cattle and sheep. During recent years the prices of home-killed meat and home-fed stock have steadily declined to a level only a shade above that of imported values. Many butchers who had previously sold only imported meat turned to the home-killed article, found a consumer preference for it, and are now stocking it regularly. It is thought that this will have a most beneficial effect in the months to come upon the home cattle industry.

There is one hopeful possibility arising from the meat discussions between the producers' organizations, the Pigs Marketing Board, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Board of Trade in connection with the Bacon Marketing Scheme. It is reported that an arrangement will probably include in the import quota calculations pigs bought in the open market. It is understood that by the end of the month the pigs contracted for will be about 500,000 short of curers' requirements. In an interview, J. A. Fox, chairman of the Pigs Marketing Board, said that some of the hundred curers who are short of the 72 per cent of their factories' full working capacity guaranteed by the board were ready to come to an understanding on their open-market purchases. It is probable that the bacon board will be able to obtain assurances from other curers. If open-market pigs are included in the calculation, the producers may well hope that the pig prices will reach a reasonable level and that the supplies' position will be fairly constant throughout the year. At the moment it is urged that the uncertainty regarding the open market is causing many producers to refrain from contracting with the curers under the scheme.

Argentina Plants Record Corn Acreage

Estimate of the area planted to corn in Argentina this season is for an all-time record of 18,854,000 acres, according to a report by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This is an increase of 8.6 per cent over the final estimate of 17,368,000 acres planted last year. The corn area in Argentina has been increasing steadily. The average acreage seeded for the five years ending 1933-34 was 15,567,000 acres.

ROUND THE RANGE

RANGE AND STOCK CONDITIONS

Live stock generally came through the severe weather of February in good condition, but with considerable shrinkage in northern sections, according to the March 11 report of the Division of Crop and Live Stock Estimates. Losses were not heavy except in limited northern areas. Northern ranges were snow-covered and heavy feeding has been necessary. Condition of ranges was 77 per cent of normal in February, the same last month, 61 a year ago, and 79.9 for the ten-year (1926-35) February average.

Condition by states follows:

Arizona.—Good supply of old grass; new feed growing rapidly at lower elevations; cattle and early calves doing well; ewes in good flesh and early lambs in good condition.

California.—Rainfall in February heavy; soil moisture generally adequate; range and pasture feeds late in lower areas; greatest improvement in the San Joaquin Valley and south; heavy snow-pack in mountains; spring feed will be good on high ranges; cattle in good flesh, but grass-fat beef from early areas will be late; early lambs, set back by late season and wet February, now doing well; stock in high ranges wintered well.

Colorado.—Western Slope and mountain ranges covered with snow, but open and dry in east; spring ranges will be late, but prospects are good except in east; feed ample except in southeast; some surplus hay in mountain and irrigated sections; cattle and sheep in good condition; light death losses.

Idaho.—Cold weather and snow caused heavy feeding, but feed ample; moisture for spring ranges good; stock in good condition, although shrinkage caused limited losses; weather unfavorable for early lambs.

Kansas (western).—Cattle declined, but losses light, due to open weather; ranges still in poor shape and prospects for early spring grass gloomy; wheat will furnish only limited feed.

Montana.—Snows and severe weather called for heavy feeding; roads blocked; feed supplies short in some sections; stock showed considerable shrinkage; losses heavy in some areas.

Nebraska (western).—Cattle in good condition; severe weather caused large shrinkage, but losses light, ranges good and snow going fast; supplies plentiful.

Nevada.—Cattle and sheep wintered well and losses were light; hay and other feeds ample; range feed good and moisture ample to make spring grass.

New Mexico.—Cattle and sheep generally in good condition; losses small; range feed generally good except in

some northeastern sections; feeds short in some eastern sections.

North Dakota.—Ranges and pastures heavily snow-covered and provide little feed; heavy feeding depleted supplies in southern sections and shortages in some localities acute; stock lost flesh.

Oklahoma.—Cattle came through cold, dry weather well; losses light; ranges poor, and heavy feeding necessary; dry in west and northwest, with damage from dust and sand storms.

Oregon.—Winter ranges snow-covered, but moisture prospects good for spring feed; hay and feed ample unless March weather severe; long feeding and cold weather resulted in shrinkage; stock fair to good; losses not heavy.

South Dakota (western).—Ranges mostly snow-covered; heavy feeding reduced supplies, but only limited areas short; heavy shrinkage of cattle and sheep; losses heavy in limited northwestern localities.

Texas.—Spring range-feed prospects about average but surface moisture needed; ranges dry in west and north-

west; grain fields damaged by freezing, high winds, and dust storms; supplemental feeding general; cattle and sheep continue in good condition; losses light; lamb-, calf-, and kid-crop prospects good; trading slow, with little contracting; cold, dry weather delayed finishing for spring marketing and developing early lambs.

Utah.—Ranges fair to good; ample hay and grains; some western and eastern ranges dry, but moisture conditions generally good; stock in good flesh; some shrinkage during storms; higher areas well covered with snow.

Washington.—Higher and some winter ranges snow-covered, requiring feeding; grass starting on early ranges, with good moisture; cattle and sheep generally in good condition; some shrinkage from cold weather; early lamb losses above average.

Wyoming.—Low temperatures and storms in early February resulted in considerable shrinkage in cattle and sheep; losses not generally heavy; most ranges snow-covered, requiring much feeding; feed generally ample and some concentrates used.

THE WINTER'S WEATHER

Long unbroken periods of abnormally cold weather marked the winter of 1935-36. Although only two low-temperature records were broken, the combined averages for the three months just ending

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(This generally includes all calls on which the day station-to-station rate is more than 35 cents)

make this winter the coldest on record in many places, according to J. B. Kincaid, of the Weather Bureau.

North Dakota was the coldest—50 degrees below at Williston and 46 at Devil's Lake; average at Bismarck, 2 below, as against 0.6 below in 1886-87. Both Chicago and St. Louis beat their previous lows by 2 degrees; the East

hovered around lowest marks in years; the cold in the South was not outstanding. In only three states—California, Nevada, and Arizona—was it warmer than normal; New Mexico and Utah, normal; everywhere else, decidedly colder.

Heavy snows fell in the East, the north-central states, and the northern

Rocky Mountain area; the South had more rain than usual; extreme western Kansas, western Oklahoma, and eastern Colorado remain very dry, and dust storms may be expected to continue there unless rain comes.

There is evidence that the trend toward comparatively warm, dry winters for a quarter of a century has reached its peak, and the forecaster believes it reasonable to suppose that a swing toward colder, wetter winters has begun.

The all-time low record for the country is 66 degrees below—in Yellowstone Park, February 9, 1933. The world record is 90 degrees below—in northern Siberia. Seventy-eight degrees below has been experienced in Alaska.

JANUARY FARM INCOME HIGH

January cash income of farmers was the highest for January in five years, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. That income, which totaled \$566,000,000, included only about \$1,000,000 in benefit payments, but was, nevertheless, higher than the \$520,000,000 for January, 1935, which included \$70,000,000 of benefit payments, or the \$490,000,000 in 1934 which included \$60,000,000 of benefits. Cash income in January, 1933, when there were no benefit payments, totaled \$348,000,000, and for January, 1932, the total was \$437,000,000. In January, 1931, it was \$589,000,000.

Gains in income from sales of products this January compared with last are reported for grains, cotton, cottonseed, fruits, vegetables, meat animals, dairy products, poultry, and eggs.

The bureau reports an upward revision of income for the year 1935, or \$6,943,000,000 as compared with \$6,932,000,000 estimated in December. The total includes sales of products plus benefit payments. Total cash income in 1934 was \$6,387,000,000, and in 1932—the low point of the depression—it was \$4,328,000,000.

1935 LIVE-STOCK PRICES

Average farm prices of live stock and live-stock products were 39 per cent higher in 1935 than in 1934, 61 per cent higher than in 1933, and 60 per cent higher than in 1932, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

All live-stock commodities except wool sold much higher in 1935 than in 1934. Meat animals were up 68 per cent; chickens and eggs, 35; work animals, 15; and dairy products, 13. Prices received for wool were down 11 per cent.

Outstanding gains were made in prices of hogs during the past year—\$8.36 per

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live cwt., compared with \$4.14 in 1934. Cattle and calves in 1935 averaged \$6.21 per cwt., and veal calves \$7.10, compared with \$4.16 and \$4.84, respectively, in 1934. Prices for sheep and lambs were up, largely in response to the general shortage of meat animals and to improved demand, the bureau reported. Of the dairy products, butterfat advanced most sharply—from 22.7 cents per pound in 1934 to 28.1 cents in 1935.

MEAT GRADED BY GOVERNMENT

Meat graded by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics during the calendar years 1935 and 1934, is reported by the bureau in the following amounts (in pounds):

	1935	1934
Fresh and Frozen—		
Beef.....	267,775,152	261,798,429
Veal and Calf.....	2,772,296	1,967,943
Lamb and Mutton.....	17,537,960	9,352,210
Pork.....	2,366,219	2,112,142
Cured—		
Beef.....	771,567	550,041
Pork.....	7,287,747	4,421,121
Sausage.....	19,706,746	1,295,738
Other meats.....	1,511,227	1,290,946
Total.....	319,728,914	282,788,570

DAIRY SURPLUS TO NEEDY

More than \$23,000,000 worth of surplus dairy products, bought by the government to relieve occasional surpluses in the dairy industry, has been distributed to persons on relief during the past two and a half years, the Dairy Section of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration has announced.

The distribution began on October 1, 1933, and from then until December 31, 1935, a total of 74,875,803 pounds of butter, 18,105,271 pounds of cheese, 15,490,500 pounds of dry skim milk, and 46,086,400 pounds of evaporated milk were distributed to the needy and unemployed who otherwise would have gone without these products.

NEW MEAT-INSPECTION CHIEF

Appointment of Dr. Edward C. Joss as chief of the Meat Inspection Division of the Bureau of Animal Industry is announced by the Department of Agriculture. Dr. Joss, for many years connected with the government's meat-inspection work, succeeds Dr. A. J. Pistor who died several weeks ago. Dr. George E. Totten, who has been in charge of the bureau's station at Chicago and has long been associated with the service, is being transferred to Washington, D. C., where he will assist the new chief.

The work which these two officials are to direct involves inspection of approximately 70,000,000 head of live stock killed for food annually in the United States, together with resulting meat-food products, in accordance with the

federal Meat Inspection Act. The work is conducted in about 750 establishments in the principal cities and requires a trained force of about 2,500 employees.

REPORTS BY STOCKMEN

Kansas

We escaped the worst of the cold, but had two or three weeks of unusual temperature. The Kansas wheat lacks moisture on account of scarcity of snow this winter. The weather is like spring now and "garden-planting" time is here.—Mrs. J. W. McDowell, Halstead, March 6.

Montana

Winter here started much earlier than usual and was hard on the haystacks, but there is enough in this part of the country to go around. At present there is every indication of spring, and on the pastures that were snowed under last fall the snow is melting. The old cows are smiling at the good pastures they could not get last fall.—MAGGIE HALLIGAN, Lima, February 5.

South Dakota

We have experienced the worst weather for the past six weeks in the history of the state. It is still bad, but the thermometer showed a plus reading yesterday. It has been as low as 52 below. Loss has been very heavy, but no estimate can be made until roads are opened and people can once more get to town. It is more than six weeks since we were to a post-office or store. The Supreme Court certainly did the stockmen a good turn when it killed the AAA.—J. B. CLARKSON, Buffalo, February 24.

Texas

Cattle have wintered well, mostly on cake; not much grass left for browsing. Grass thinned out from three years' drought will not carry 30 per cent of the usual number of cattle even if we have normal rainfall. The calf crop is light and mostly late.—GEORGE TUBB, Canadian, March 8.

Utilitarian Grammar.—First Farmer—"Which is correct, 'A hen is sitting' or 'A hen is setting'?"

Second Farmer—"I don't know, and I don't care. All I bother about is when she cackles—is she laying or is she lying?"—San Francisco Chronicle.

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INDIANS ADOPT CONSTITUTIONS

Twenty-four Indian tribes, their population totaling 34,973, have to date adopted constitutions and by-laws under the Reorganization Act, reports the Office of Indian Affairs.

The list of the tribes which have completed their initial work of reorganization includes some of the largest and best known in the country: the San Carlos Apaches in Arizona; the Blackfeet, Flathead, Fort Belknap, Rocky Boy's, and Tongue River tribes in Montana; and four of the Sioux tribes—the Pine Ridge, Rosebud, Lower Brule, and Cheyenne River in South Dakota. The first of the Pueblos to adopt a constitution is Santa Clara, one of the Rio Grande pueblos near Santa Fe. As each constitution is finally approved by the Secretary of the Interior, the document is sent to the government printer and each member of the tribe is provided with a copy for himself.

Tribes now in the process of drafting new constitutions total forty-seven, with a total population of 54,721. Many of these tribes will conduct their popular referenda in the next few weeks.

To date only five tribes, their population amounting to 9,958, have rejected constitutions upon which their constitutional committees had requested elections. At one of these reservations, leading opponents of the constitution who objected to one or two provisions immediately began movement to draft a modified document. In the other cases,

the Indians have started a thorough reconsideration of the matter so as to secure constitutions more in accordance with the popular will.

ALASKA'S REINDEER THREATENED

Many herds of Alaskan reindeer—chief winter food source for northern Alaska natives—are threatened with extinction due to marauding of unusually large packs of wolves in the snow-covered regions this winter, Governor John W. Troy reported in a recent cable to the Secretary of the Interior asking for assistance.

Governor Troy reported the heaviest infestation of wolves in years, ranging over the public domain in two distinct regions, one covering all territory within a radius of 300 miles about the town of Noorvik, and another at the northern tip around Barrow and Wainwright and extending to Demarkation Point at the Canadian boundary.

Traveling in large packs, the wolves are killing as high as sixty deer in one night, leaving the mangled remains to freeze into the snow, and scattering the herds.

The deer travel in herds, ranging from a few hundred to 60,000 head, over the open tundra of the public domain and are rounded up periodically. Because of the sparse vegetation in the northern region, it requires fifteen to forty acres of range to maintain a deer for one year.

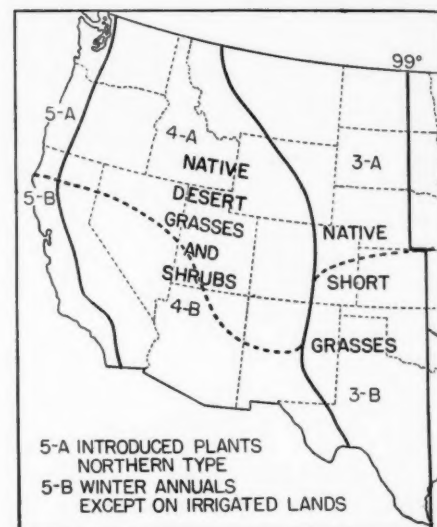
Special consternation is felt because the reindeer fawning season begins around the middle of April, and a heavy killing toll at this time would threaten next year's food supply for the natives. Besides supplying food, the reindeer skins are used for fashioning clothing for local wear. In addition, last year about one thousand skins were sent to the States for general leather working.

PASTURE SEED MIXTURES

Pasture-men in the Department of Agriculture say that it is seldom advisable to seed land intended for permanent pasture to any one grazing plant. A mixture of grasses and legumes results in a more uniform stand or longer season, and higher production. In any mixture there are likely to be plants adapted to any soil condition in a pasture. Mixtures give a uniform seasonal production, because different plants have differing periods of flush growth. A mixture of grasses and legumes provides a better balanced ration, as legumes are richer in both protein and minerals. They also help to keep up the nitrogen supply.

The following mixtures and pounds of seed per acre are recommended for areas shown on the below Bureau of Plant Industry map:

Great Plains and Intermountain Regions (Regions 3 and 4).—In these regions native plants are the main source of permanent pastures, and proper methods of grazing are more important than seeding of introduced plants. In the northern parts, when it is desired to



graze land that has been cultivated, crested wheatgrass, bromegrass, or slender wheatgrass may be seeded. All are drought-resistant, nutritious, and palatable. Mixtures of slender wheatgrass and sweet clover also are recommended.

On irrigated lands in the northern part of Regions 3 and 4, a mixture of smooth bromegrass 3, Kentucky bluegrass 4, orchard grass 4, meadow fescue 3, white clover 1, and alsike clover 1, or 16 pounds to an acre, is recommended; for wet or poorly drained soils, a mixture of redtop 10, timothy 6, and alsike clover 4 (20 pounds an acre). In Regions 3-B and 4-B, pastures on irrigated lands are largely Bermuda grass or alfalfa. Dallis grass, also a perennial, is even more productive on irrigated land than Bermuda grass.

Northern Pacific Slope (Section 5-A).—For moist bottom land: Italian ryegrass 3, perennial ryegrass 3, meadow fescue 4, Kentucky bluegrass 4, white clover 2, red clover 2, and alsike clover 2 (20 pounds an acre). For fertile uplands: Italian ryegrass 4, tall oatgrass 4, orchard grass 4, Kentucky bluegrass 4, white clover 2, red clover 2, and alsike clover 2 (22 pounds an acre).

Southern Pacific Slope (Section 5-B).—In this section summers are quite dry and winter rainfall so light that natural pastures are largely winter annuals which reseed each year. A mixture recommended for irrigated lands: Dallis grass 5, Italian ryegrass 5, alfalfa 5, and Ladino clover 6 (21 pounds an acre). Such a pasture is less likely to cause bloating than clover or alfalfa alone, and provides a longer grazing season.

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